



Operating Rototillers and Walk-Behind Tractors

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Strong enough to **safely operate equipment** for duration of task
- Youth is **physically large enough** to safely operate the unit
- Attention span **long enough** to complete work
- Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- React quickly to hazards
- **Mature** enough to consistently do what is expected
- **Good peripheral vision**
- Bend and lift safely, using **proper techniques**
- Limit weight carried to less than 25% of youth's body weight
- Can understand and consistently repeat a 10-step process
- Clears area of all debris and rocks before starting, see [Picking Rock](#) guideline
- [Connect/disconnect an implement](#)
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- Maintain [two-way communication](#) link
- Change clothes and wash hands when job is done



Adult Responsibilities

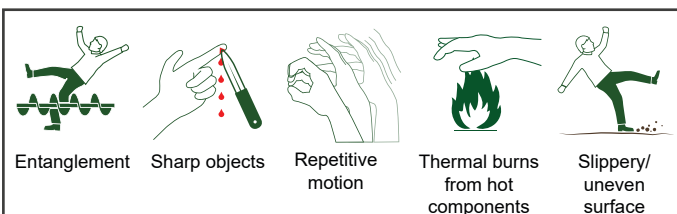
- Comply with the [working outdoors guideline](#)
- Ensure no underground utility lines if digging into soil
- Ensure equipment is mechanically sound with all **safety features** in place
- Provide safe transport to worksite
- Ensure appropriate training
- Demonstrate how to safely operate equipment
- Monitor youth for fatigue while operating equipment
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Train youth to call an adult if equipment malfunctions

Supervision

Note: Youth should begin with smaller rototillers (e.g. Mantis) and progress to larger rototillers and walk-behind tractors as age/abilities allow)

| | |
|-------|--|
| 12-13 | Constant supervision progressing to intermittent |
| 14-15 | Intermittent supervision |
| 16+ | Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic |

Hazards



Protective Strategies

