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1621 Safety Guidance
WITH DRIVEN WHEELS v:122016

Banner

Cultivator with Driven Wheels

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the cultivator

1. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. This cultivator is designed for the rapid turning over of soil in the preparation of large gardens and other areas.
3. The action of this cultivator can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
4. Keep your hands and feet well away from the rotating tines.
5. If you have not used a cultivator before, practise in the middle of your area to be dug until you are confident you can use the cultivator safely.
6. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
7. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: Ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 90 db(A); Safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972) to protect feet and ankles; Strong gloves for handling any rubbish in the grass.
8. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. This cultivator is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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Using the Cultivator

1. Wear your protection equipment including ear defenders and boots.
2. If your cultivator has a rear guard covering the tines always make sure it is in the lowered position before digging.
3. Always hold the cultivator firmly with both hands while working.
4. The driving wheels can be engaged without the digging tines to enable to position the machine ready to start. Be sure to keep the stationary tines clear of any path or boarders or they may cause damage.
5. While digging, keep a look out for any stones or other objects in your path. Stop the cultivator and clear them out the way.
6. The rotating tines can throw out small stones or other hard objects. Do not bend down tot the tines when they are running.
7. Do not operate the digging tines on concrete or other hard surfaces. Injury or damage may occur.
8. If the tines become clogged with long grass or weeds, you must stop the engine. Clear the tines wearing gloves.
9. If you are working on heavy clay soils, check that is no build-up of clay around the drive mechanism. You must stop the cultivator before you attempt to remove it.
10. Reverse gears, if fitted to your cultivator, are only to help you reverse out of tight corners and to position the cultivator. Check behind you before you start reversing.
11. Disengage the tines and wait for them to stop rotating before engaging reverse gear. Be extremely careful and keep checking behind you, when reversing.
12. Do not try to engage the tines while reversing.
13. Take care not to get pushed against a wall or into a corner while reversing.
14. While working with the cultivator take care not to lose your footing on the soft uneven ground you have just turned over.
15. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
16. Clean the machine at the end of each day before you return it to the hire company.
17. If your equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
18. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

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Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this cultivator where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, do not run the engine indoors unless you have good ventilation. Ensure that you have proper ventilation when working in other confined areas.
3. Protect other people from the noise and from injuny. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.
4. Make sure the ground you are about to turn over is free of large stones, pieces of wood , lengths of wire, or anything else that may interfere with the tines. Wear your gloves to do this.
5. Dig out any big strong weeds, including the root, by hand and dispose of them.
6. Long grass will bind the tines so it should be cut down to about one or two inches.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this cultivator. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 90db (A)-wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972) giving good foot and ankle protection.
4. You will need strong gloves to handle any rubbish or debris on the ground.
5. Do not wear any loose clothing that could get caught in the machine.
6. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

CULTIVATOR

1. Check your cultivator completely, including engine, control cables and leavers, and the digging tines. If anything is found damaged, do not use the cultivator – contact the hire company.
2. Keep the cultivator in a near upright position when digging or you may spill oil out of the engine.
3. You can adjust the handle on your cultivator up and down and on some models, side to side. Make sure that the adjustment – locking device is tight before you start work.
4. Your cultivator will have a digging depth control. Do not set it to dig any more than 3" to 4" (8cm to 10cm). To dig deeper make a second and third pass, each time resetting the depth control.
5. Do not try to dig deeper than 8" or 9" (20cm to 23cm) in total.
6. On some models, drive is not transmitted to the wheels until you squeeze the clutch lever in. These models also have an emergency stop leaver, which stops the machine if it is released.
7. In either case the machine will stop moving if you release the control levers.
8. If the cultivator gets out of control while working, do not fight to regain control. Release the control levers and the machine will immediately stop.
9. Make sure you understand all of the controls. Before you start the cultivator, you must know how to control and stop it.

REFUELLING

1. No Smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. Move the machine away from your work area.
4. Clean the filter cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the petrol tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
7. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING

1. Some cultivators have a blade brake that needs to be held in during starting and use. If the hire company has given you special instructions for your cultivator, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
2. Check that there is no obstruction, including long grass, under the cultivator.
3. Ensure the gears are set to neutral.
4. Open the fuel valve by the fuel tank. Your cultivator may also have a primer valve you have to push in several times.
5. Check that the throttle lever is in the START position .
6. Hold the machine firmly with your left hand, so that it will not move when you pull the starting cord.
7. With your right hand, pull out the starting cord handle slowly until you can feel that starter has engaged with the engine, and then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or the cord might break.
8. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
9. If the engine did not start, check that there is sufficient petrol, and that the throttle leaver is in the correct position. Pull the starting cord again.
10. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

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