

MAFES Dawn Tracks



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Landscape Safety: Using Power Tillers Safely



Power tillers, like all horticulture appliances, are very useful and great labor savers. But, they can be dangerous, if proper care and handling aren't practiced.

BEFORE USING A TILLER

- Read the owner's manual completely. Learn to use the levers and controls. Learn how to stop the machine quickly (in case of an emergency).
- If you are buying a new machine or leasing one, ask the salesperson to demonstrate it, so that you may learn the proper and safe use.
- Do not allow anyone who isn't physically or mentally fit or hasn't been trained properly to operate the machine.
- Before each use inspect the machine for missing, loose or broken parts. Make the needed repairs before you start to use the machine.
- Check before each use to see that all guards and shields are in place.
- Fuel the engine tank outside in an open area. When refueling, be sure to allow the engine to cool down. Wipe up any spills immediately and do not smoke while fueling.
- Dress properly for the job: Wear snug-fitting clothing in good condition, safety glasses or goggles, hearing protection, safety shoes and a filter mask, If you are working in dusty conditions.

- Check the area for safety hazards like rocks, limbs, brush, bottles, cans or sticks.
- Be sure that the area is clean of bystanders, such as kids or pets.
- Check to be sure that you aren't using the tiller around underground utilities, water or irrigation lines, or trees.

OPERATING THE TILLER

- Never start the engine in a closed building. Deadly fumes can build up.
- Keep your hands and feet clear of all moving parts.
- Be sure to check and set the depth regulator before starting the engine. Failing to do may cause the machine to jump away from you.
- If you hit an obstruction, stop the machine, cut off the engine before trying to check and/or clear the object.
- Do not leave the machine running or attended.
- Always disengage the tines when turning or transporting the tiller.
- Get help when lifting the tiller to move it to another location. Be sure to tie it in good to prevent it from rolling.

***BE SAFETY SMART RIGHT
FROM THE START***

DON'T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT