

**WALK-BEHIND ROTARY CULTIVATOR**

DO NOT **use this machine unless a teacher has instructed**

**you in its safe use and operation and has given permission.**

   

### **PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. **Read the owner’s manual and safety instructions before operating.**
2. **Know the location and function of all controls.**
3. **Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional.**
4. **Check unit for loose/missing nuts, bolts and screws. Tighten and/or replace as needed.**
5. **Look for signs of damage to tillage tines. Replace if required.**
6. **Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburetor for fuel leaks. Do not operate unit if leaks are found.**
7. **Faulty equipment must not be used. Immediately report suspect machinery.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Watch especially for ejected material and ensure that no person or animal is endangered when operating.**
2. **Adjust the handles to a position for comfort and good balance.**
3. **Set the tine depth according to soil conditions. See operator’s manual.**
4. **Ensure the cultivator is securely held and is on firm and even ground before starting.**
5. **Keep clear of rotating machine parts whilst the engine is operating.**
6. **Maintain a straight wrist position Avoid using your wrist in a bent, extended or twisted position for extended periods.**
7. **Be alert for rocks and other obstruction when operating the rotary hoe.**
8. **Use extreme caution when reversing or pulling the machine towards the operator.**
9. **Shut down immediately if the unit starts to shake or vibrate. Do not operate the cultivator until the problem is corrected.**
10. **Always stop the engine and disconnect spark plug wire before cleaning the tines or undertaking maintenance.**
11. **Exercise extreme care when refuelling to avoid spilling fuel onto hot motor or exhaust.**

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Clean away any foreign material, debris from in and around the motor, tines and guards.**
2. **Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

**◼ Trip hazards ◼ Noise ◼ Foot injuries**

**◼ Entanglement ◼ Flying debris**

**This SOP should be used in conjunction with Curriculum Activity Risk Management Modules**

***Acknowledgement****: Much of the information for this document has been sourced from content kindly provided by Department for Education SA website.*

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| **Date of last review** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |