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CULTIVATOR - WITH DRIVEN REAR WHEELS (PETROL)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS

It is in the interests of those operating this equipment, and for the safety of others, that these **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS** are carefully read and understood before operating this equipment.

PURPOSE

1. This equipment is designed for the quick turning-over of soil in the preparation for cultivating large gardens and other similar areas.

PERSONAL SAFETY

2. This equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary, or permanent disability, must seek expert advice before using it. It must not be operated by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. If the equipment is not used in a safe, careful and controlled way (keep hands and feet clear of the equipment at all times), personal injury may result and damage to the equipment may occur.
4. Before attempting to operate this equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics. Practice using this equipment on a small piece of ground to familiarise yourself with its handling characteristics.
5. Vibration from this equipment may be at a level that could be hazardous to the user, if operated for extended periods. Always wear gloves and ensure hands are warm before starting work and they remain warm and dry. Do not grasp the equipment too tightly, only sufficient to safely control the machine. If you experience tingling, numbness or loss of strength in the fingers – stop working immediately. Take frequent breaks and exercise the hands and arms to minimise risks.
6. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you will be working in a safe environment.
7. Take care as petrol is highly flammable.
8. When operating this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.
 - Ear defenders giving protection for levels up to 90dB(A).
 - Appropriate industrial gloves.

Note: Other types of work, or environment, may require a higher level of PPE.

OPERATING AREA

9. Before commencing work, ensure that the area you are to operate the equipment in is a safe environment.
10. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions (large rocks, stones, wood, pipe work, cables, wire, etc.) and that no one is near you that could distract you.
11. Remove from the area, before commencing work, long grass, large weeds, strong roots, etc. to prevent them fouling the machine.
12. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
13. Before commencing work, warn others who may be working in the vicinity of the equipment, to keep clear. If possible place barriers and safety signs around your work area.
14. Never run the equipment inside buildings, or in poorly ventilated locations, where there may be risk of serious or fatal injury from inhaling exhaust (toxic) fumes.

15. Where at all possible, protect others working in the vicinity from the noise, debris, and dust.
16. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

17. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments operating characteristics and controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function before commencing work.
18. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** the equipment in an emergency.
19. Visually inspect the equipment (engine, digging tines (blades), control levers/cables, wheels, etc.) for serviceability (completeness, signs of damage, undue wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.

USING THE EQUIPMENT

20. Check for correct oil and fuel levels before you attempt to start the equipment.
21. Adjust the height of the machines handle for optimum comfort and control. Securely lock the handle adjuster before commencing work.
22. The equipment is designed to dig to a depth of 3 – 4ins (8 – 10cms). A greater depth can be achieved by multiple passes, on each pass, re-adjust the depth control. Do not attempt to dig deeper than 8 – 9ins (20 – 23cms).
23. Some machines have a blade brake, which must be held-in whilst starting the machine.
24. With some machines the drive to the tines is transmitted on depressing the clutch lever. On others, the drive is transmitted when the clutch lever is released. In both cases, drive to the tines is stopped when the control lever is released. Do not attempt to re-gain control of an out-of-control machine, immediately release the control lever and the machine will stop.
25. Keep the machine upright as possible to reduce the risk of fuel spillage.
26. If the equipment is fitted with a rear guard (covering the tines), ensure it is lowered before commencing work.
27. The driving wheels can be engaged (without rotation of the tines) to assist the positioning of the equipment before commencing work.
28. Reverse gears (if fitted), can be engaged to assist the re-positioning of the equipment and to help extract the equipment from heavy soil or clay. **DIS-ENGAGE THE TINES BEFORE ENGAGING REVERSE GEARS.**
29. Ensure the gears are in '**NEUTRAL**' before starting the equipment.
30. Ensure you hold the equipment firmly and have control when you pull the starter handle.
31. Open the fuel control valve by the fuel tank. If a priming pump is fitted, operate this several times.
32. Open the throttle to the '**START**' position.
33. Grasp the starter handle firmly and carefully take-up any 'slack' (until the starter engages the engine). Pull the starting handle quickly and strongly to start the engine.
34. Once the engine has started, guide the starter cord back into place.
35. If the engine fails to start, check fuel level and ensure the throttle lever is correctly positioned. Repeat the steps at 29 to 34. In cold weather, allow the engine to 'warm-up' by gradually opening the throttle lever before commencing work.
36. Always '**STOP**' the engine before leaving the equipment unattended.

REFUELING

37. This is a four-stroke petrol engine; only refuel with petrol.
38. The engine must not be running whilst refueling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
39. Do not smoke whilst refueling.
40. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then, remove it.
41. Using a clean funnel, pour petrol into the fuel tank. Care must be taken not to overfill or spill fuel. Petrol spilt on the engine must be wiped dry, that spilt on the ground must be removed and the area covered with sand or earth. Petrol soaked clothes must be removed.
42. Replace the petrol cap securely.

SECURITY & MAINTENANCE

43. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
44. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
45. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from debris.
46. When the equipment is left unattended for long periods (i.e. overnight), ensure it is made secure to prevent unauthorized use or loss.

COLLECTION & PICK-UP

47. For safety reasons this equipment requires you to use a **LORRY**.

