

## Rotary Tiller Helps Gardening



Cover crop can be easily mulched back into the soil with a rotary tiller, to provide nutrients for succeeding crop.

Recent changes in food prices have shocked a good many Americans. Long accustomed to some of the lowest food prices in the world. We've been jolted by steady and dramatic increases in the cost of food stuffs. Fifteen years ago, it was pretty tough to pile more than \$20 worth of groceries into the average shopping cart; with a little ingenuity you now can pack nearly \$100 worth of groceries in one.

To partly counteract this alarming increase in the cost of food prices, a lot of Americans are returning to that fabled institution, the backyard garden. In so doing, they are discovering the wonderful flavors of freshly picked corn, dewy tomatoes fresh from the vine, and dozens of other delightful vegetables and fruits. But they are discovering a dark side to the garden; aching backs, strained muscles, and blistered hands. A good way to avoid these unpleasantities, according to garden experts at Massey-Ferguson Inc., is to use a rotary tiller for your own backyard plot.

Why a rotary tiller? The chief reason is a tiller eliminates the effort that goes into a shovel and other hand tools that prepare a seed bed, plow up the grass, cultivate weeds, and mulch in leaves at the end of the season. The wit who christened the shovel an idiot stick—"a stick with dirt on one end and an idiot on the other" was perhaps being a little unfair, but there is no denying a shovel can wreak all sorts of calculated brutality on the shoveler.

A rotary tiller gets around this by letting a machine do all the really hard, unpleasant work. It can eliminate the strain and aching muscles heretofore associated with planting some corn and tomatoes, and it can permit gardeners with

physical disabilities to continue their hobby. A tiller can tackle a bevy of activities around even the small backyard plot.

Tillers are used most often to prepare the soil for planting. A tiller has a small gasoline engine, driving a set of rotary tines that cut through the soil, chopping and pulverizing it to prepare a suitable seed bed from which the young plants can grow and thrive. When the plants are well under way, tillers are used for cultivating between the rows to keep weeds down. And after the plants are harvested, the tiller can be used to mulch crop refuse back into the soil. Used this way, tillers reduce the need for shovels, rakes, and hoes—and they also eliminate blisters.

### How to Select a Tiller

As you go shopping, you'll find there are two major types of tillers. By far the most common type has the plowing tines at the front of

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the tiller. The tines are powered by the engine, and literally pull the tiller along so that you do not have to push it from place to place.

Another type of tiller you may see has the tines mounted at the rear, with the front wheels driven by the motor. This configuration is normally found in extremely large tillers, more suited for the multi-acre garden than the small back lot.

Another advantage of the

front-tined tiller: it can plow to within one or two inches of a walk, foundation, or established shrub. The rear-tined tiller can plow only within 8 or 10 inches of such barriers.

Tillers for average home use are driven by gasoline engines of three to eight horsepower.

Be extremely careful not to slip or fall as you operate a tiller.

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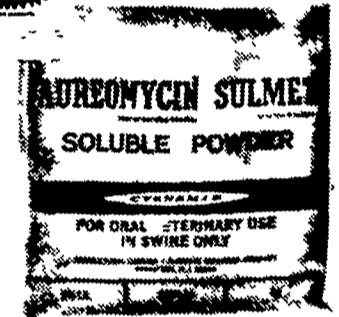
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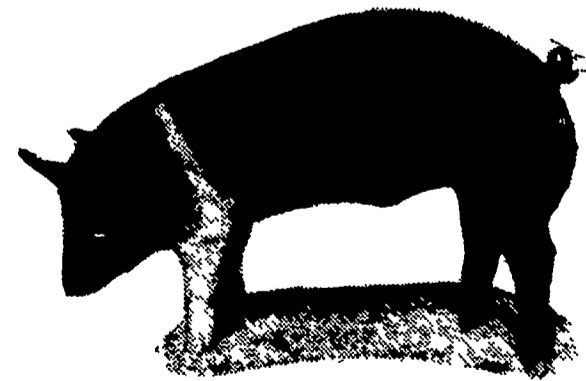
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