



Let's Talk

Primary Tillage
Fall / Winter
Cornstalks

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PRIMARY TILLAGE

Most farmers and corn growers are under the impression that Rotavators are only good for Spring tillage, **WRONG** Rotavators are extremely versatile tillage tools that can be used in the Fall, even in high moisture, heavy soils and heavy crop residues.

The Howard Rotavator, when properly set up for primary tillage, will keep the farmer within Conservation Compliance Requirements and at the same time, reduce expenses and provide the farmer many tillage and non tillage options the following planting season.

A Rotavator, when properly set up, will chop and incorporate more residue (standing cornstalks) and distribute it more evenly into the the soil under a broader range of moisture conditions than any other tillage tool. Under no circumstances is crop shredding required ahead of Rotavating.

SETTING UP THE ROTAVATOR FOR COARSE TILLAGE

For coarse tillage in cornstalks, the Rotavator should be set up with depth control wheels with soil scrapers and four 'C' blades per rotor flange. Select a medium blade speed and place the rear soil shield all the way up, or completely remove it.

A poly liner is recommended to line the underneath of the frame to prevent soil build up, reduce horsepower requirement and blade wear; resulting in faster forward travel speeds.

Tillage depth is usually 3" to 5", the objective being to till deep enough to loosen all the soil as deep as seedbed depth, tear out all the corn root wads, chop and blend the residue and leave enough loosened soil to allow even as simple a tool as a field cultivator to prepare a perfect seedbed in one pass prior to planting.

OPERATING THE ROTAVATOR

Operating the Rotavator at a slight angle to the row (5 to10 degrees) will distribute the residue evenly throughout the field and leave the ground and residue level. The Rotavator will not plug or wrap and therefore not make a mess of the field. The residue that remains on the surface brings the operator well within residue compliance requirements.

The forward rotating blades of the Rotavator will push the tractor up hills, across contours, through low ground, peat, muck, wet spots, fresh manure and wet surface conditions, A Rotavator pushing rather than a tractor pulling means no wheel slippage and no tire wear. The power driven, forward rotating blades will allow primary tillage in snow covered ground or with up to 2 1/2" of frost depending on the organic matter or sand and the Rotavator model used.

