



PASTURE RENOVATION FOR GRAZIERS

●Let's Talk

The HOWARD ROTAVATOR has found great acceptance as the best alternative for killing grasses, weeds, brush and some small trees. A total kill of all vegetation can occur in as few as two trips, or more depending upon a variety of factors. Please see **LETS TALK 'KILL' UNWANTED GRASS WEEDS AND BRUSH WITHOUT CHEMICALS** for a more thorough discussion on a total killing objective.

An alternative to killing all the vegetation is a partial kill accomplished by removing ½ of the blades on any ROTAVATOR. Usually 'L' blades are preferred for this application and all the left hand or all the right hand blades are removed. Each blade tills a width of approximately 5". With every other blade removed, the ROTAVATOR will till 5", leave 5", till 5", leave 5", etc. over the entire width of the machine.

ROTAVATORS are available in widths of 30", 40", 50", 60", up to 180" (15'). This strip tillage effect can be done with any ROTAVATOR, of any width. 'L' blades are preferred, but 'C' blades will also work.

Seize the opportunity to test and balance your soils. Order your soil correctives, and have them delivered before any ROTAVATING. The vegetation should be grazed down, and / or mowed to a height of 2-4"; the shorter the better to stunt the surviving grass so as to not overwhelm the new seedlings. Spread your soil correctives as required. ROTAVATE only 2"-2 ½" deep in a direction (on the contour) so as to minimize any opportunity for potential water movement down the 'tilled strip'.

If moisture conditions are good, and blade speed relative to forward travel speed is correct; a strip of soil and root mass is removed, shaved loose from the main body of turf. Some, but not all of the vegetation will die. Equally important as killing the vegetation is the volume of loose soil available for good seed soil contact, quick germination, and excellent emergence, that results from ROTAVATING.

After ROTAVATING, a pass with a simple spike tooth harrow, or a chain pasture harrow, will guarantee an even distribution of loose soil into low areas. The seedbed will be level and ready for seeding.

Reseeding can be done with a BRILLION SEEDER, or any other type of seeder that gives total broadcast coverage. With proper moisture, the new seeding will come on quickly, and because of the untilled strips, the field should support the weight of animals and traffic without pugging.

This form of strip till ROTAVATING will improve the productivity of your pastures without the use of herbicides, and without the risk of killing all the vegetation. It is a low cost, easy way of increasing the biological diversity of vegetation in your pasture, with the objective of increasing the volume, palatability, digestibility and profitability of your pastures.

For best results please consult with BARRENBRUG SEED for recommendations of grazing forages (888) 470-5569, and MIDWESTERN BIO AG for soil balance recommendations (800) 327-6012.

A HOWARD ROTAVATOR IS THE MOST VERSATILE SURFACE TILLAGE TOOL ON THE FARM, BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST ADJUSTABLE. THE ADJUSTABILITY OF THE ROTAVATOR ALLOWS FOR CONTROLLED TILLAGE. THE BEST TILLAGE IS THE LEAST TILLAGE; JUST ENOUGH TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CROP THAT WILL FOLLOW. DEFINE THE TILLAGE OBJECTIVE, AND THEN ADJUST THE ROTAVATOR FOR OPTIMUM ONE-PASS PERFORMANCE.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF HOW TO GET THE BEST PERFORMANCE FROM YOUR ROTAVATOR OR HOW ROTARY TILLAGE CAN BEST FIT YOUR NEEDS, CONTACT GUY MACHINERY.

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