Tine Weeding Rakes Instruction Manual

7030 E 46th Avenue Dr, Denver, CO 80216, United States
support@hensleyseeds.com | hensleyseeds.com

Tine weeding is a form of blind cultivation that focuses on removing weeds when they are at their most vulnerable state: the white thread stage. If done properly, tine weeding can remove a great number of weeds from your garden before they take up nutrients and water necessary for your crops. There are three main factors that impact the successful use of our tine weeding rakes.



Timing:

Most importantly, the crop that you plan on tine weeding has to be at a stage of development where it can withstand the mechanical disturbance of the top ½ inch of soil. We recommend testing a small section of your plot before tine weeding the entire thing to evaluate how well established the plants are. Once you have determined that your crop is ready to be cultivated, take a look at the weeds growing in your plot.

Weeds are particularly susceptible to tine weeding while they are in the white thread stage, which lasts from the time they germinate in the soil to just after they emerge and their leaves become visible. Tine weeding after this stage may still kill some weeds, but not nearly as many.

Copyright © 2015 Hensley's Seed Co. All rights reserved.

Conditions:



As with most styles of weeding, tine weeding is the most effective on warmer days with full sun. This causes the uprooted weeds to quickly desiccate and be unable to re-root themselves. The condition of the soil is also an important factor to consider. If the soil is compacted, it will prevent the tines digging down into the soil to uproot weeds. The soil also has to be relatively free of debris and rocks, or they will build up on the tines and could result in crop damage or ineffective cultivation.



Technique:

Once you have determined that your crop is ready for cultivation, and the weeds are at the white thread stage, it is time to put your tine weeding rake to use. Place the head of the rake at the beginning of the row with one hand near the middle of the rake and one hand at the end. Begin walking down the bed while keeping the rake head in constant contact with the soil, and keeping steady downward pressure firm enough so that the tines dig about ½ inch into the soil. If the bed is wider than the head of the rake, multiple passes should be performed. If debris is building up behind the rake head, you can hold it at a slight angle to encourage it to work its way toward the path. A few passes can be performed on the same bed, but be careful not to overdo it. Each successive pass will penetrate a little deeper and increase the chance of disturbing the roots of your crop.



Uses:

The 21” model is most often used for tine weeding multiple rows of a high-density seeding. The 9” model and 6” model rakes lend themselves to a few different uses. They can be used between more mature crops almost like a cultivation hoe, used to tine weed over single-row crops, or used to weed between the rows. When flipped upside down they work well for leveling soil, and come in handy while forming beds. All models are useful for cultivating crusty soil in over-wintering crops. It is also possible to remove some of the center tines on your rake allowing you to weed both sides of a single-row crop. This could be beneficial for crops that are too large or too delicate to run the tines over.

The tines are replaceable, and extras can be purchased from the source supplier in packs of 7. Even with perfect technique and conditions, it should be noted that a small portion of the crop being weeded will likely be uprooted or damaged.

Check out our product pages on hensleyseeds.com for videos of these rakes in action.

REV 12/23/2015 MN, RC

Copyright © 2015 Hensley’s Seed Co. All rights reserved.