

Standard Operating Procedure Tree Planter

Tree Planter

Hazards Present:

Operation of the tree planter may pose a danger of, but not limited to:

- ! Machine driving over feet, hands, etc.
- ! Fingers, toes, etc. getting pinched or cut
- ! Straining of one's back
- ! Catching loose clothing in moving parts
- ! Heat stroke
- ! Being ejected from the seat if the planter strikes a solid object in the ground

Safety Equipment Required:

- Gloves
- Appropriate footwear such as steel-toed boots, work boots or hiking boots with good ankle support
- First aid kit
- Proper clothing for weather conditions

On-Site Preparation and Maintenance:

- Soil should be well worked through discing or cultivation; soil should be loose and free of sod lumps and large stones. Roto-tilling closer to the date of planting is beneficial.
- Check for loose or worn bearing on the discs
- Grease machine

Operating Procedure while in Field:

- 1) Before removing pin from transport vehicle, be sure tires are blocked, jack is secure and on solid ground, safety chains are unhooked.
- 2) Once hooked to the field tractor, connect the hydraulics. Then apply just enough hydraulic pressure to take the weight off the transport chain and unhook the chain from the furrow opener. When hooking the tree planter to a tractor be sure to exercise caution not to pinch a person between the tractor and the planter.
- 3) Tree planters should be firmly seated with feet in footrests, and ensure any loose clothing is free of moving parts. Be sure the tractor operator is alert and able to see and hear you if you have to shout any commands, if not a third person may be required to relay signals. Proceed to planting area, aligning the tractor and planter with previously marked out stakes. Load bins with tree seedlings.
- 4) Lower furrow opener into the ground to the correct planting depth (should be deep enough that the plug is completely covered, and the roots are not bent). When lowering into planting mode, keep all body parts clear of moving parts.
- 5) Plant seedlings at a 45-degree angle toward the packer wheels, holding onto the seedling until the soil falls around the roots. Packer wheels will tamp the soil into place and pull tree to an upright position. Be careful not to strain your back or pinch your finger in any of the moving parts.
- 6) A fourth (or more) person(s) is required to follow the tree planter and pack the soil by foot, cover exposed roots, uncover buried seedlings and check for correct spacings. Packing the soil eliminates air pockets allowing for greater planting success.

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Brief Overview

- The disk breaks the soil, the furrow opener creates an opening to place the seedling, the filler arms help to bring soil in to fill the furrow, and the packer wheels tamp the soil back into place. Filler arms are not necessary and can be left in the upright position.

Tree Planting Tips

- Place any trees/ boxes you are not using right away out of direct sunlight.
- If planting over multiple days, check plug moisture and mist plugs if necessary.
- Person behind tree planter can carry flags to mark any missed spots which can later be filled in by hand.

Operating Procedure on Road:

- 1) Before unhooking tree planter from the field tractor be sure the furrow opener is raised into transport mode and locked in place with the chain. The furrow opener should have 6-8 inches of clearance from the ground.
- 2) To unhook from the field tractor, block the tires, remove all hydraulic hookups and pins.
- 3) Raise the tree planter into position for the tow vehicle, when hooking be sure to fasten all pins and safety chains. Ensure hydraulic hoses are secure.

Reference Image

