

# NORTH ROAD PLOTHOLDERS GROUP

## USING THE MANTIS TILLER

### 1. Health and Safety

**As with all allotment safety, the onus is on you, the plotholder, to use this machine safely. Some NRPG recommendations aimed at facilitating safe use follow.**

Boots, ideally 'Toetectors' or similar metal-reinforced stout shoes and eye protectors should be worn when using the Tiller. The blades are sharp and care should be taken not to get caught on them, particularly when carrying the machine. It is easier to carry the machine in a wheelbarrow. On no account must the machine be carried while the engine is running.



DO NOT CARRY THE TILLER IN THIS POSITION.

### 2. Starting the Tiller

Put the on/off switch on the right hand handle in the on "I" position.



Put the choke in the up position.



Push the primer bulb 5 or 6 times



Pull the starting cord handle gently until you feel it grip, then pull briskly. If the machine does not start after two pulls, push the choke down one position.



Once the engine has started, gradually push the choke down to the off position (lowest). Allow the engine to warm up for 2 to 3 minutes before using it.

### 3. Using the Tiller

The Tiller has an automatic gearbox. The lever on the top of the handle is a safety lock that prevents the throttle trigger from operating without it being depressed. Push the safety lock down first and then squeeze the throttle trigger. The engine will accelerate and the tines will begin to turn.



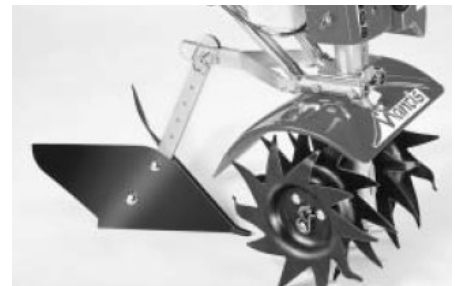
Once the engine is running and the tines turning, you can begin to till your plot. The best way to do this is to walk backwards, dragging the tiller towards you. Go slowly and let the tiller rock backwards and forwards. The longer that you allow the tiller to stay on one spot, the deeper it will go. By walking backwards, you will leave your soil turned over without any footprints in it.

Make sure that the tines continue to turn. If your soil is particularly wet or heavy, the tines may become clogged. If this happens, turn the engine off and stand the tiller on the front carrying handle, so that the tines are facing towards you. Clean the soil and any stones out from between the tines and between the tines and the drive shaft using a screwdriver or similar. If necessary, the tines can be removed (see under "Cleaning the Tiller" below).

Once the tines are unclogged, you can restart the machine. It will not be necessary to use the choke as the engine will already be warm.

If your soil is already turned over, you can use the tiller to break up the soil without the need to till the soil first. To do this, the tines are reversed. Remove the tines as described in "Cleaning the Tiller" below and replace them on the opposite side so that they face the opposite way that they did before.

There is also a plough attachment that will dig furrows for planting potatoes, etc. This is attached to the bar that comes out of the back of the tiller. The depth is adjusted by pushing the vertical bar through the cross bar to the required depth. The pin to secure the plough is kept in the storage shed.

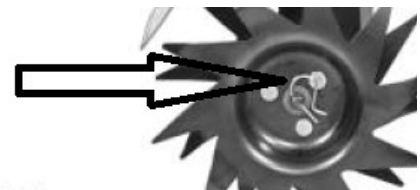


To use the plough, just direct the tiller along the path where you wish to create your trench.

There is also a trencher. This consists of two single tines instead of the double tines and creates two narrow trenches. Put the tiller where you want to dig your trenches and till deeply by letting the tiller go forwards and then pulling it back. Do this for the entire length of your trench.

### 4. Cleaning the Tiller

Please ensure that the tiller is clean when you return it. Place the tiller on the front carrying bar so that the tines are facing towards you. Clean all of the soil out from between the tines using a screwdriver or similar. The tines can be removed by pulling out the securing pins at the end of the axles. Be sure to put these pins in a safe place while they are off the tiller.



There is a flat side to the axle which lines up with the flat side of the hole in the tine. Wipe the axle free of any soil, etc. before replacing the tines and inserting the securing pins.