# Think Safety With ... Walk-Behind Rotary Tillers

### **Product Definition**

• Walk-behind rotary tillers are electric or gas powered machines designed to cut and blend the soil by power driven rotary action. Rotary tillers are ideal for preparing the ground for planting, cultivating a growing crop and mulching refuse back into the soil after harvesting.

#### **Before Tilling**

- Always remove stones, tree trunks or large roots from the area before you begin tilling so that objects won't fly up and hit you. Clear the area of people and pets.
- Dress properly for the job, wearing substantial shoes, long pants and close-fitting clothes.
- Read the operator's manual to find out where controls are and what they do, and always check for additional safety instructions. Know how to stop the machine quickly. Do not remove or disable guards or other safety devices.
- Fill your gasoline tank only while the engine is cold. Don't spill when you fill. If you need to refuel before completing a job, turn off the machine and allow the engine to

cool. Never light a match or smoke around gasoline.

## **Operate Your Tiller Carefully**

- When using an electric-powered tiller, make sure you never till over the cord. Use recommended, grounded extension cords and check periodically for worn or damaged cords.
- Never use an electric-powered tiller when the ground is wet or it is raining.
- Stop the tiller immediately and shut down if you hit an object. Turn the tiller off, inspect the machine and repair any damage before starting.

# Keep Your Tiller in Peak Operating Condition

- Inspect the tiller periodically for potential hazards:
  - Loose belts
  - Missing or damaged guards
  - Accumulations of grass, leaves or excessive grease to reduce fire hazard

- Seek the professional advice and/or service of a qualified servicing dealer for problems.
- Take your tiller to an experienced servicing dealer every year for a safety and maintenance inspection.