

Land Pride Monthly Product

FOCUS



Fall Tillage (Tilth) Tools

“How Does Your Garden Grow?”

Keeping up with the Jones!

It's hard to believe, but that old harvest moon is fast approaching. The good folks who live north of the Mason-Dixon Line will soon be picking the last of the sweet corn and vine ripened tomatoes. They'll be gathering in the last of the cucumbers, beans, melons and squash and digging up potatoes. In some cases they'll find themselves wondering why their neighbor's garden yield was so much better than theirs. In other cases their neighbors might actually be flaunting the fact that their garden yield and output was far better than the neighbors. In any case, growing your own fruits and vegetables can be a very healthy and personally rewarding activity. If you really want to “Keep up with the Jones” the garden is a great place to start. With rising food prices it is also a good way to help manage that budget.

Soil Cultivation?

Why does one garden grow better than another? It's all about “tilth”, a word that Webster's dictionary defines as “cultivation of the soil”. Farmers and vegetable growers know all about this subject of tilth, but many hobby farmers and home gardeners may not be as informed as they need to be. First of all, tilth and tillage are not one in the same in meaning and definition. Land Pride designs and manufactures a wide array of tillage tools. If it were just about tilling the soil to make things grow, you probably wouldn't have to go any further than your nearest Land Pride dealership to become the next “Jack and the bean stalk”. Tilling the soil is only one very important part of the “tilth” or soil cultivation process.

Soil Chemistry

Just like human beings, individual species of plants need and like to consume certain things as part of their daily diet. Most plants prefer a certain pH level in the soil before they will develop an appetite for nutrient uptake. Some

plants like soils with higher acidity and some like soils with more alkalinity. The pH content of a soil profile is measured on a scale of 0-14. Soils having a measurement of 7 are considered being neutral. Readings below 7 are considered being higher in acidity and readings above 7 being higher in alkalinity. Soils usually become high in acidic content when vegetative matter such as leaves decay and break down. Sulfur compounds can be added to the soil to increase acidity levels and lime can be added to the soil to increase alkalinity levels.

If and when you are in doubt about what your soil pH level is or needs to be to grow certain type of plants, you can simply take some soil samples in to your local County Extension Office and, for a few dollars, they will tell you what your soil pH level is and what you need to add to the soil to achieve a favorable pH level for good growing conditions. Once your plants do have an appetite to feed, they will need adequate levels of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium to feed on. Some plants also need other trace minerals such as chelated iron, or aluminum oxides, or mineral salts. Amending the soil usually achieves best results when done in the fall just after the crops are harvested and just before you till, plow or disc. Soil can also be amended in the spring just before tilling and planting. Soil amendments are usually applied by using fertilizer spreaders.

Changing the Soil Chemistry – Fertilizer Spreaders

Land Pride offers three different sizes and capacities of 3-point hitch mounted 540 rpm pto driven [Fertilizer Spreaders](#). These spinner type spreaders are capable of distributing



pelletized gypsum and lime or prilled fertilizers at spreading widths up to 54 feet. All three models have heavy duty tubular frames with plated distribution spinners and non-rusting seamless poly hoppers for long product life. The FSP500 has 350lb hopper capacity, the FSP700 has 563lb hopper capacity, and the FSP 1000 has 673lbs of hopper capacity. When not in use as a fertilizer spreader, these [FSP Series Spreaders](#) can be used to spread sand or salt in the winter months and can also be used to spread some seed varieties when the need arises. Land Pride also offers a 100lb capacity 12 volt electric spin spreader capable



of being mounted on smaller discs harrows, pickup truck tailgates, ATVs, and utility vehicles.

Choosing Your Tillage Method and Tillage Tools

The best way to get maximum benefits

out of your fertilizer and applied soil amendments is to till and mix them into the soil right after you take your crops out. It also works better if you have chopped up all vegetative crop residue on your garden plot with a rotary cutter or mower. Land Pride offers a full range of [Rotary Cutters](#) or [Mowers](#) sized just right for chopping up and shredding your garden or field crop residue.

There are currently three long standing and favored methods for turning crop residue under so it can decay and break back down into beneficial humus. The first method is to fall disc all of the crop debris under and then go back over it in the spring with a disc harrow just prior to planting. Land Pride offers a very good line of [Disc Harrows](#) adapted for tractors from the 40hp all the way to the 100hp working ranges.

The second method used by many farmers and growers, depending on soil conditions, is to simply disc the residue under in the fall and disc again in the spring. Our [DH10 series](#) discs are 3-point mounted and come in 48" or 60" cultivating widths and are adapted for tractors in the 40hp working range. Our 3-point [DH15 Series](#) are adapted for tractors in



the 65hp working range and come in 60" and 72" working widths. Our 3-point [DH25 Series](#) work best on tractors in the 80-100hp range and come in 72" or 96" working widths. The Land Pride [DH35 Series](#) come in 10' and 12' working widths but are adapted for pull-type drawbar hookup enabling attachment to lower horsepower tractors in the 40-75hp working ranges. Land Pride disc harrows cover a wide range of soil conditions with 20" and 22" notched or smooth discs, disc scrapers, center sweeps, and furrow filler attachments. These discs are also easily adjusted for more or less aggressive cultivating action of the disc gangs.

The most effective method for integrating soil amendments and pulverizing and turning crop residue under is to use a powered [Rotary Tiller](#). Tillers also relieve soil compaction, improve water percolation, increase available levels of essential oxygen, and enhance beneficial microbial activity in the soil profile. The best yielding gardens will typically be tilled in the fall and spring. As a general rule of thumb reverse tine tillers will dig deeper, require fewer passes on virgin ground, and do a more complete job of burying crop residue than forward tine tillers.

Land Pride designs and manufactures at least ten different series and over forty different model configurations of both forward and reverse tine tillers. They are American made and built right from the ground up in Abilene, Kansas. If Land Pride doesn't have the tiller sized to meet your needs or application, you probably wouldn't want it anyway. Check out our tremendous tiller selection at [landpride.com](#). And while your at it, you might want to check out some of the other hundreds of items we design and manufacture to meet your needs.



"Tilth then start planning for that next garden!" When you're ready to get serious about your "tilth" and increasing those garden yields, make sure you choose Land Pride Tillage Tools to help you make those much needed soil amendments. Check us out! You'll be glad you did. Who knows? You could become the next "Jack with a bean stalk!"