Cornell Cooperative Extension
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Equipment -Disc Harrows

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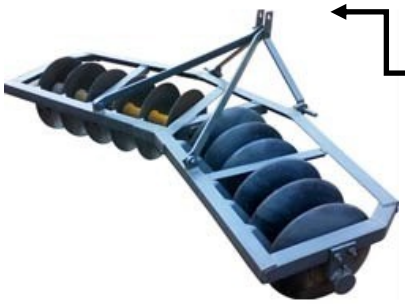
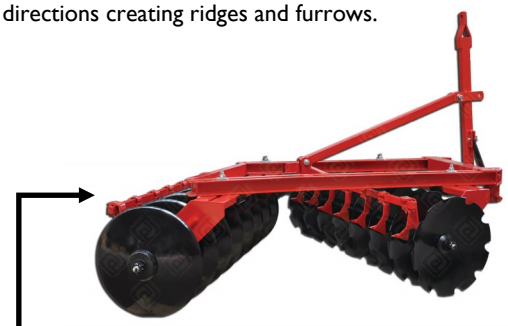
Disc Harrows

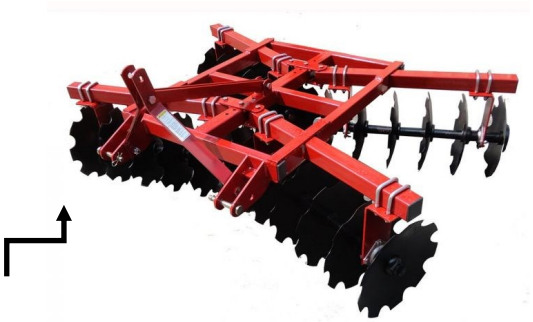
Disc Harrows are used in a field management practice called disking. This is a method used in soil and field preparation. It is a practice that usually comes after plowing. While plowing cuts and inverts the soil creating ridges, disking breaks up the soil and surface crust. Disking improves soils uniformity and helps incorporate crop residual into the soil.



Single action disc harrow consists of two disc rows arranged in opposite directions; it throws the soil in opposite directions creating ridges and furrows.



Offset disc harrow consists of two rows (left and right) operating in tandem; the harrow is usually placed in the offside of the tractor so it is not in the same line of pulling as the tractor.



Double action disc harrow, also called tandem disc harrow, consists of two or more rows. The discs from the front rows throw the soil in one direction, while discs on the rear rows throw the soil in the opposite direction.

Disc harrows can be classified according to the size of the disc. In regards to the disc diameter, there are three different disc harrows:

-Light disc harrows, with a disc diameter of 20-30 cm
-Middle disc harrows, with a disc diameter of 30-50 cm
-Heavy disc harrows, with a disc diameter more than 60cm

PLAIN/SMOOTH DISC BLADE

NOTCHED/CUTWAY DISC BLADE

Disc Types.
-Plain smooth discs are used to cut and invert the soil.
-Notched discs are used for entering crop residue into the soil.