

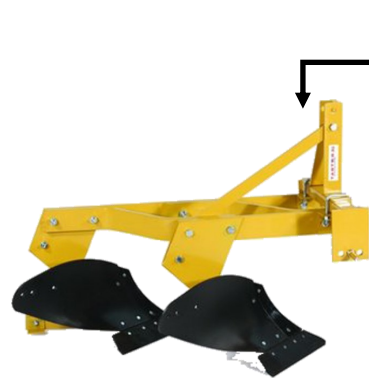
Equipment - Plow

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Plow

A plow is one of the most traditional pieces of farm equipment. Plows are used to break open and turn the soil, allowing for better water retention and for roots to more deeply extend. They are also used to turn and incorporate organic matter into the soil.

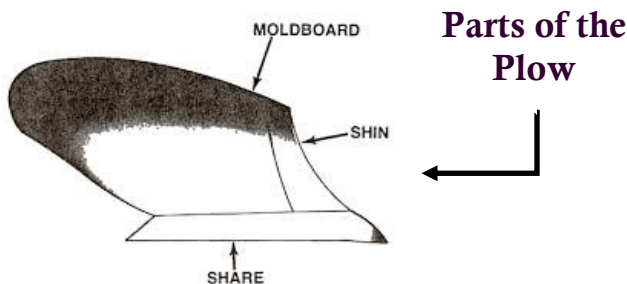


A **Turning Plow** often refers to a plow designed for hillsides. With turning plows, the plowshare is constructed with a hinge that the farmer can use to reverse the direction that soil is thrown. This allows the farmer to make sure the soil is tossed downhill regardless of the plow's direction of travel. A turning plow may refer to a plow that is designed to flip the soil over and loosen the dirt. This type of plow is not always appropriate for breaking up soil, unless your soil is loose and sandy. Clay or hard soil is not easily pulverized with this type of turning plow.

Bottom Plows are made with one or more plowshares, ranging in size from 10 -16 inches each. For instance, two-bottom plows have two plowshares. Designs with three, four and more plowshares also exist for use on larger plots. Bottom plows bring up soil that exists at a lower level, enriching the topsoil with nutrients below the surface and leaving the soil loose and aerated.

★ The main difference between a bottom plow design and the turning plow is that when dropping soil, the bottom plow tends to switch between downhill and uphill with each pass. The turning plow can be adjusted to toss the soil downhill regardless of the change in direction. Bottom plows are ideal for use on flat ground and adequately break up clay or heavily compacted soil. While turning plows are ideal for fields with hills and change in grade, they are better suited for looser sandy soils.

—Tractor attachments— Three-Point Hitch



Parts of the
Plow

