

wheels. Wheels are housed in a heavy steel frame which is held to the rear hitch by two clevis pins. The center pin doubles as a hinge once the outer pin is removed. Wheels can then be pulled up out of the way and secured by sliding the pin through one of three adjustment holes. Remove both pins and the wheels come off altogether. The pin and clip system makes wheel adjustments a quick job.

Tilling depth is controlled by the rear skid, which is also housed in the rear hitch and retained by a clevis pin. The skid is a sturdy, 1 1/4 in. by 3/4 in., solid steel beam that is notched for positive adjustment.

Mid-Tine Attributes

The proliferation of inexpensive, light-duty, front-tine tillers has somewhat blemished the entire front tine tiller category. This is unfortunate, because a good front tine tiller offers many advantages.

While the Merry Tiller might be classified as a front-tine unit, it is actually more of a mid-tine design. The tines are situated below and to the rear of the engine.

The Merry Tiller is easy to operate and can be controlled with one hand if so desired. It will churn down deep if you let it, to depths of up to 12 in. The nar-



Wheel assembly lifts up and locks out of the way. Clevis pins hold wheel assembly to rear hitch. Wheels lock in four positions and are easily removed when both outer pin and center pin are withdrawn. Notches on rear skid allow depth adjustment. Skid is secured by same pin/clip setup.

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row transmission, just 1 1/2 in. wide, slides right through the tilled soil and does not impede tilling.

A handle-mounted throttle control makes it easy to adjust engine RPM. Operators can select the optimum speed for the work at hand—slow for sod and fast for finish tilling. Starting, stopping and speed adjustments can all be performed from the operator's position.

Portability is another benefit of the Merry Tiller's mid-tine configuration. Its footprint is about the same as a walk-behind mower, so it doesn't take up a lot of space. It's relatively easy to load into cars or pickups and it fits easily through most doorways. The unit's compact design pays off in the garden too. The Merry Tiller can run right along vegetation or fences and can turn in its own space.

Lots Of Options

Another attractive aspect of the Merry Tiller is its array of optional attachments. The list includes bolo tines, for mulching and cultivating; aerator tines to help air, water and fertilizers reach roots; finger tines for seed bed preparation; and pick tines for breaking up tough soils, rocky ground, clay or even asphalt. An optional tine extension kit expands tilling width to 40 in.

Tines can be replaced with bar-lugged

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