

# WRIGHT SWCD TREE PLANTER - PLANTING GUIDE

## **\*READ BEFORE USING TREE PLANTER\***

### **Trees**

The Wright SWCD's tree planter is designed to plant bare root seedling trees.

To improve the survival rate of your trees, keep moist burlap wrapped around the roots, when trees are in the planter tray while planting. This will keep the roots from drying out.

### **Planting Site**

To get good root to soil contact, the area may need to be worked up to a depth of 9 to 12 inches. If the soil is not loose enough, air pockets can occur around the tree roots. Additionally, the tree planter may not function properly if the site has not been prepared.

### **Pulling and Operating**

- Hitch** - It has an interchangeable hitch for towing with a 2" ball or pulling while planting with a pin hitch.
- Tractor** - A 40 horsepower tractor or bigger is best to pull the planter at a very slow speed. A full size four-wheel drive vehicle travels much too fast to plant safely.
- Hydraulics** - The tree planter has its own hydraulic system to raise or lower the planter which is operated by a lever while planting. You will need to provide a 12 volt battery to operate the hydraulics.
- Operators** - The tree planter is best operated with four people – a tractor operator, two planters and one person to follow the planter straighten out the trees and firmly pack by stepping the soil around them. Under very favorable conditions, two people may be sufficient.
- Speed** - The speed of the tractor and planter across the field affects the quality of the planting. This maybe dependent on soil type. When the planting rate is too rapid, trees will usually be found planted too shallow, some trees may actually be flat or planted too deep.
- Tree Spacing** - If you wish to measure planting distance between trees, tie a rope on the back of the planter with a knot at the spacing you wish to achieve – 8 feet, 16 feet, etc. Once you have planted the first tree, wait until the knot reaches that tree and plant another tree. With this strategy, spacing can be maintained.
- Modifications** - **DON'T YOU DARE!** The tree planter does not need any modifications. The contract you signed stated you are liable for the cost of removal of any modifications.

# **IMPORTANT**

## ***Planting Precautions For Those Riding The Planter***

1. Feet should always be kept on the planter foot rests.
2. The tree planter should be raised out of the ground at the end of each planted row.
3. ***PAY ATTENTION:*** Keep hands from entering between the packing wheels. If a hand gets pulled into the planting wheels, it is best to let the planter “plant” your hand and then pull your hand out after it has cleared the wheels.
4. Do not get off the planter until the tractor has stopped.
5. Make sure both planters’ hands and arms are out of the way before raising/lowering the planter.