

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

ROTARY CUTTER

GENERAL INFORMATION

The BRADCO rotary cutter is perfect for cutting tall grass and brush up to 4" in diameter.

The rotary cutter attaches to the toolbar/quick-attach mechanism of your skid-steer loader. Due to this arrangement, thorough knowledge of the skid-steer controls is necessary for machine operation. Read and understand your skid-steer operator's manual for information regarding skid-steer operation before attempting to use the rotary cutter.

Follow all installation instructions in Section F for the proper installation of the unit onto your skid-steer before attempting to operate your rotary cutter.

OPERATING TIPS

- Increase the life of your bi-directional blades by cutting brush in one direction and cutting grass and smaller vegetation in the other. (This will keep the blades sharp for cutting grass.)
- If your preferred direction of blade rotation is not set up correctly for your skid-steers "detent", the hydraulic hoses may be reversed at the motor end.
- Continuous rotation of the blades is required during operation to prevent overheating of the hydraulic system. The rotary cutter is equipped with a blade rotation indicator disk to assist in monitoring blade rotation. If the rotary cutter stalls, disengage auxiliary hydraulics, and remove cutter from debris before restarting.
- Engage and disengage the hydraulic system with the skid-steer at idle.

WARNING! Before leaving the operator's seat: Lower the lift arms against frame and place unit on the ground. Disengage auxiliary hydraulics. Stop Engine. Engage parking brake. Remove the key.



DANGER! ROTATING BLADE HAZARD! STAY BACK!



OBJECTS CAN BE THROWN!

DO NOT operate near bystanders.

DO NOT place hands or feet under deck while in operation or with engine running.

DO NOT operate without a shatterproof door (or front shield) installed on loader.

WARNING! Operating on high flow hydraulic systems may cause severe injury or death to operator or bystanders due to the increased RPM. Do NOT operate the rotary cutter on high flow hydraulic systems.



WARNING! Lift limiting chain must be properly installed before operation.



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CUTTING OPERATION

1. Raise the back of the unit off of the ground approximately 4" to allow the material to clear from under the cutting deck as you travel forward.
2. Place the front skid shoes 1-2 inches off the ground. This is the preferred position for cutting grass and heavy vegetation.
 - Never drive your skid-steer with the front of the rotary cutter tilted to the point your view is obstructed. Always make sure you can see what you are cutting.
 - Check the work area. Never operate the rotary cutter in populated areas where thrown objects could injure persons or damage property.
 - Never raise the unit and expose yourself or anyone else to the rotating blades. If you can see the blades then the back of the unit is raised too high.
3. Activate the auxiliary hydraulics with the engine at idle. Increase engine speed.
4. Be sure the rotary cutter is operating smoothly and at full speed, and then start forward travel while monitoring blade rotation.

NOTE: The rotary cutter has a window in the motor cover shield so the operator can see the blade rotation indicator disk. This disk should always be rotating during operation to prevent a drop in hydraulic pressure or overheating of the hydraulic system.

CUTTING LARGE BRUSH UP TO 3-4" IN DIAMETER:

When cutting large brush, roll the front of the rotary cutter up 1-2 feet. **DO NOT LIFT THE BACK OF THE CUTTER!** Slowly drive into the tree and use the hydraulic tilt function on the skid-steer to bend or push the tree over. As the tree bends, the blades will cut it off. The tree can now be mulched by rotating the front up, drive forward several feet, roll the front down onto the tree and backdrag. Repeat, if necessary. Remember do not lift the back of the cutter.

AVOID STALLING ROTARY CUTTER: Continuous rotation is required to prevent overheating of the hydraulic system. The rotary cutter is equipped with a blade rotation indicator disk to assist in monitoring blade rotation. If the rotary cutter stalls, see "TO RESTART BLADE ROTATION".

TO RESTART BLADE ROTATION: Return engine speed to idle and disengage auxiliary hydraulics. Remove rotary cutter from debris. Engage auxiliary hydraulics to start blade rotation. (Be sure the rotary cutter is operating smoothly and at full speed, and then start forward travel while monitoring blade rotation.)

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REPEATED STALLING OF ROTATING BLADES: Return engine speed to idle and disengage auxiliary hydraulics. Remove rotary cutter from debris. Review operating conditions and the size/density of material being cut. Make necessary corrections. Engage auxiliary hydraulics to start blade rotation. (Be sure the rotary cutter is operating smoothly and at full speed, and then start forward travel while monitoring blade rotation.)

TROUBLESHOOTING OPERATING CONDITIONS:

Below are listed a few operating conditions that may cause repeated stalling of your rotary cutter, and suggestions on how to correct them.

GRASS TOO LONG OR THICK: If cutting heavy vegetation, you may need to slow travel speed or make smaller passes (less than full cut) to prevent overloading and stalling the unit.

BRUSH TOO BIG IN DIAMETER: The rotary cutter is NOT designed to cut trees larger than 3-4" in diameter. If brush is smaller than 3-4" in diameter and the cutter is stalling, check sharpness of the blades (see "Maintenance" Section L) and cut using the procedure described earlier in this section for "Cutting Large Brush".

BRUSH TOO THICK OR HEAVY: If cutting heavy or thick brush, you may need to slow travel speed or make smaller passes (less than full cut), to prevent overloading. If the blades seem to be unable to handle the volume of brush, slow down the travel speed until the unit reaches full speed before proceeding.

SCALPING THE GROUND or BOTTOMING OUT: Be aware of changes in the terrain. Stay alert for drop-off and holes. Check the terrain and the deck position before restarting and continuing cutting.

STRIKING FOREIGN OBJECTS: Stay alert for rocks, fencing, abandoned wells, septic tanks or other foreign objects. If the rotary cutter comes into contact with a foreign object, stop the unit, shut off the engine and disconnect the hydraulic couplers from the skid-steer. Inspect the unit and repair any damage before restarting and continuing cutting. (Never try to weld or straighten damaged blades.) Inspect the work area for any other items, and if they are too large to be removed from the area, they should be flagged clearly.