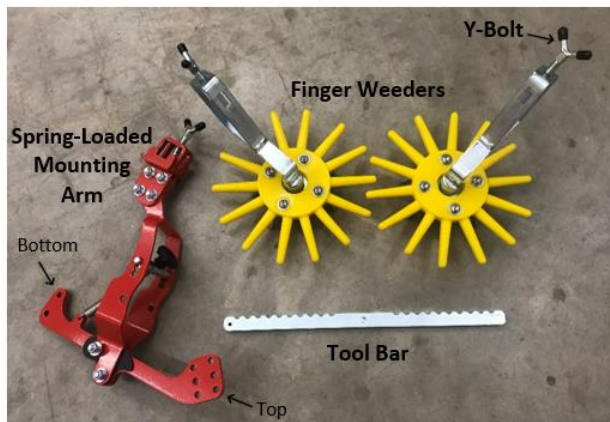


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Finger Weeders are an effective tool for providing in-row cultivation of vegetable, fruit, and flower crops and can eliminate the need for hand pulling garden weeds. They target thread-stage weeds close to crops by fracturing the soil from the root zone upward, freeing the roots and germinating seeds from soil moisture.

Finger Weeders are made of polyurethane discs, equipped with flexible “fingers” attached onto spiked metal drive wheels, and are available in two different densities for a variety of soil types. Finger Weeders are mounted to a spring-loaded arm, allowing them to move freely over the soil at a consistent depth.

Note: Finger Weeders are designed to mount on the #7620 Terrateck Double Wheel Hoe (sold separately).



Parts Included:

- Spring-Loaded Mounting Arm
- 16” Tool Bar
- (2) Finger Weeder Assemblies
- (3) Y-Bolts

Additional Materials Needed for Assembly:

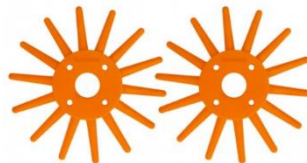
- Set of ½ inch or adjustable wrenches

Finger Weeder Types:

Finger Weeders come in two different densities, depending on how loose or heavy your soil is. The standard yellow fingers are stiffer for medium to heavy (hard) soil types, while the more pliable, orange fingers are best for soft or sandy soils. For best results, choose the firmness that is right for your soil type.



Yellow- For standard and heavy soils

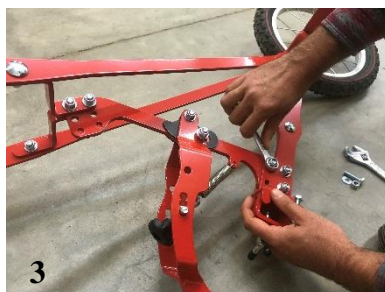


Orange- For soft or sandy soils

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Attaching the Mounting Base

1. Remove bolts and washers from the top and bottom sections of the standard tool mount on your Terrateck Double Wheel Hoe using a set of ½ inch or adjustable wrenches. See photo 1.
2. Replace standard tool mount with the spring-loaded mounting arm for the Finger Weeder. See photo 2.
3. Replace and tighten bolts to secure the spring-loaded mounting arm onto your Double Wheel Hoe. See photo 3.
4. The top of the spring-loaded mounting arm should fasten to the handles using the top set of holes. See photo 4.



Mounting the Finger Weeder Assembly

1. Slide the tool bar into the opening at the end of the spring-loaded mounting arm with the serrated edge up. You will notice there is a dimple in the center of the tool bar; this dimple should be facing towards the back of your Double Wheel Hoe.
2. Secure the tool bar in place by tightening the Y-bolt so that the tip of it rests inside the dimple on the tool bar.
3. Slide one Finger Weeder assembly onto the end of the bar and secure it by tightening the Y-bolt onto the serrated edge of the tool bar (see right).
4. Repeat step 3 using the second Finger Weeder assembly. The Finger Weeder assemblies should always be an equal distance from the center of the tool bar.



Note: Finger Weeders may be used simultaneously with additional attachments for the Terrateck Double Wheel Hoe. By using them with Lelievre Sweeps or Preci-Discs, you can accomplish both in-row and inter-row cultivation simultaneously. See left.

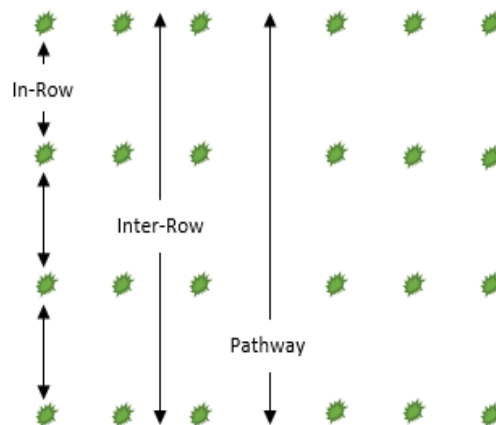


Figure 1. Different types of cultivation

ADJUSTMENTS

For optimal performance, the individual fingers from the two finger wheel assemblies should cross over each other slightly and dig about ¼" (2/3 cm) into the ground. The spring mounted frame helps you maintain even pressure on the ground, however, you may need to make some adjustments to ensure even contact on different soil types.

To adjust the degree of overlap between the finger wheels:

1. Adjust the lateral position of the Finger Weeders using the Y-bolts. Ensure that the two wheels are at matching angles and distance from the center of the mounting bar. See figure 2.

To adjust the pressure and depth of the Finger Weeders:

2. Adjust the tension in the spring by turning the knob. See figure 3.
3. Adjust the angle of the Finger Weeders up and down. See figure 4.
4. Adjust the position of the spring. See figure 3.

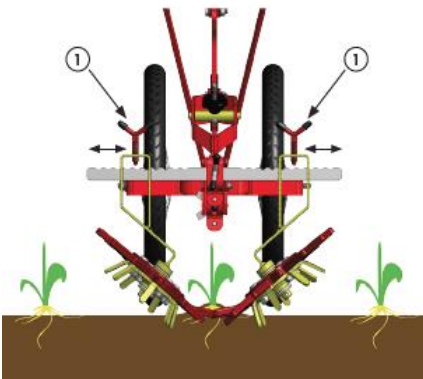


Figure 2. Adjusting the angle of the Finger Weeders.

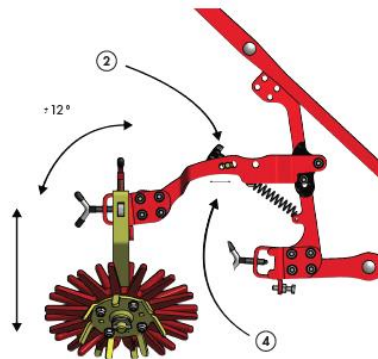


Figure 3. Adjusting the tension and position of the spring.



Figure 4. Adjust the position of the spring

OPERATION

Timing: Timing is critical when cultivating with Finger Weeders. They can be very effective for targeting weeds at the cotyledon (thread) stage where they will easily pull away from the soil, leaving them to desiccate in the sun. A second pass is often needed within a few days to successfully eradicate small weeds that may have re-rooted.

Sizing: There must be a distinct difference in size between the weeds and the crops you are cultivating around. Crops also need to be mature enough to withstand the rigors of the fast-moving “fingers”.

Spacing: Finger Weeders work best with a row spacing of at least 10” (25 cm) apart. See figure 5.

Speed: Operate the hoe at a minimum speed of 1.5 miles/hour. Moving the wheel hoe back and forth in an oscillating manner can help to better break up crusted soils.

Bed Preparation: Finger Weeders work best in loose soils and are not recommended for use in heavily crusted or rocky soils, or where long-stemmed plant residues are present.

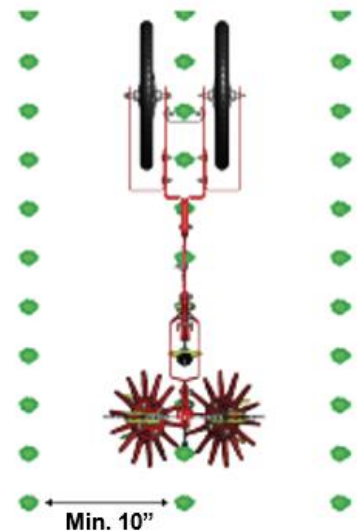


Figure 5. Row spacing

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