



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

All Foster-Cherry Products Ltd products comply with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and/or The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992 and subsequent amendments.

**CAREFULLY READ THIS MANUAL**

It contains instructions and information regarding the preparation before use, safe operation and maintenance of the machine. This instruction manual should be made available to all operators of this machine.

Before attempting any work carefully check over the entire machine and lubricate as outlined in Section 5 - GENERAL MAINTENANCE.

All information, illustrations and technical details given in this manual correspond to the latest design at this time.

It is this company's policy to continually develop its products and the right is reserved to alter designs and specifications without prior notice.

When ordering spare parts please quote the machine serial number, model type and year of manufacture as given on the manufacturer's serial plate affixed to the machine.

Record this information below for future reference.

**SERIAL NO .....**

**YEAR OF MANUFACTURE .....**

**For Parts contact Adam Drewery Tel: 07901 338473 or email [adam@fostersalescompany.co.uk](mailto:adam@fostersalescompany.co.uk)**

*Any alteration or modification carried out on a Foster-Cherry Products product by any person other than company personnel shall be the total responsibility of the said person.*

**ALWAYS USE GENUINE FOSTER-CHERRY PRODUCTS SPARE PARTS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Foster-Cherry Products **Rotary Slasher** range is in a class of its own. It can provide cost effective control of bracken, rushes, gorse and heather, and can also create woodland rides and forestry fire breaks.

The **RS1700** has a cutting width of 5' 6" (1700mm), and is designed for use with tractors in the 40 to 70hp range. For use with tractors up to 95hp and above, or under heavy cutting conditions an optional "high horsepower" gearbox can be fitted to the RS1700 model.

The machine is constructed with 4mm sides and top panel, substantially reinforced with box section at the gearbox, skid and tractor mountings. The machine also features a square rear profile to improve reverse cutting performance, front and rear full width box section buffers fitted with heavy duty chain debris guards to retain material for secondary cutting and tubular skids to minimise ground damage when turning. The hinged headstock with twin suspension straps allow uneven ground contours to be followed accurately.

Designed to be mounted in-line onto the rear 3 point linkage of a tractor, the machine is powered by the tractor PTO, with the power transmitted through a direct drive gearbox to a heavy duty rotor assembly with either three high tensile cutter chains or blades attached. The direct drive system ensures that consistent performance in the most arduous conditions can be achieved without belt slippage or failure, and the system is protected from overload with shearbolt and overrun clutch protection.

**Please consult your supplying dealer for further details on driveline protection including friction clutch options on the PTO shaft.**

Operating height is adjustable with the option of 3", 5" or 7" cutting heights for varying applications. Unique tubular skids minimize ground or turf damage when turning and skid height is adjusted by a simple pin system eliminating the use of tools.

All machines have in-line linkage to assist with stability when working in hilly or steep land, and the A frame is free floating to allow the machine to follow the contours of the ground in operation.

Triple high tensile chain cutters are used for all heavy conditions including woodland and scrub growth to 1½" (38mm) diameter and are more practical than blades in stony conditions.

Triple high tensile blades cut grass and rushes cleanly, also bracken and heather in light stone conditions, and require less tractor PTO horse power than chains. Blade and chain cutters can be interchanged in less than 10 minutes utilising the same rotor hub.

**SAFETY CHECK LIST PRIOR TO USE**

1. Never allow anyone to ride on the machine. Keep other people away from the machine at all times when operating and always be aware of your surroundings. Bystanders may be deaf and/or blind, therefore, always exercise care.
2. Ensure the tractor has sufficient counter-balance weights fitted.
3. Refer to the tractor manual to ensure sufficient counter balance weights are fitted.
4. Check all tyres for damage and inflation pressures.
5. Extra care should be taken when driving on the highway.
6. Check securing pins and lynch pins before using machine.
7. If any adjustments are to be carried out to the machine, always park on level ground, apply the parking brake, stop the tractor engine and remove the ignition key before dismounting the tractor.
8. Always ensure that all safety guards are correctly fitted to the machine before operation.
9. This machine is designed for tractors having a 540 rpm PTO with a standard 6 spline shaft. **DO NOT exceed 540 rpm PTO speed**
10. Never engage the PTO or use the machine whilst in the **RAISED** position.
11. Never carry out any work under the raised machine without the correct safety supports in place.  
**NEVER RELY ON THE TRACTOR HYDRAULICS**
12. Operate only at a safe distance from bystanders and livestock and **DO NOT** operate along highways or in any areas where people are present.
13. Use extra caution when operating on rough terrain and in areas where rocks and debris are present. When used on sloping or steep ground always operate up and down the slope and not across.
14. Check every 1 to 2 hours for loose nuts and bolts, in particular on the cutter blade/cutter chain mounting on the rotor assembly when in use.

**ATTACHING TO THE TRACTOR**

**THE RS1700 ROTARY SLASHER IN ITS STANDARD FORM IS DESIGNED FOR USE WITH TRACTORS IN THE 40 TO 70HP RANGE AND THE PTO SHAFT IS FITTED WITH SHEARBOLT PROTECTION AND AN OVERRUN CLUTCH.**

**THE RS1700 CAN ALSO BE USED WITH TRACTORS UP TO 100HP AND THERE ARE OPTIONS OF A FRICTION CLUTCH ON THE PTO SHAFT AND A HIGH HORSEPOWER GEARBOX FOR THIS PURPOSE, OR FOR USE IN ARDUOUS CONDITIONS. PLEASE CONSULT YOUR SUPPLYING DEALER**

**WHILE IT IS NECESSARY TO MANOEUVRE THE TRACTOR TO CONNECT THE MACHINE TO THE 3 POINT LINKAGE, ENSURE THAT THE TRACTOR ENGINE IS SWITCHED OFF, THE PARKING BRAKE IS APPLIED AND THE IGNITION KEY REMOVED WHEN FITTING OR ADJUSTING THE PTO SHAFT.**

- a. Fit the rotary slasher to the tractor three point linkage in the normal way, using the pins and lynch pins provided. Always use check chains/stay bars to limit the amount of sideways movement. This will not only produce a better finish but will also help to prolong the life of the machine.
- b. Ensure that when the machine is lifted, the top link mounting point is sufficiently clear of the rear of the tractor cab/window. It may be necessary to limit the maximum lift height of the tractor linkage.
- c. Once the machine is attached to the three point linkage the PTO shaft should then be connected. It may in some cases be necessary to shorten the PTO shaft to avoid the drive shafts bottoming. If this is required the following steps should be followed:-
  - i) Place the machine in its working position, flat down on level ground, stop the tractor engine, apply the parking brake and remove the ignition key.
  - ii) Pull the PTO shaft apart and remove both shaft guards.
  - iii) Without re-assembling the shaft, fit the outer half to the machine end and the inner half to the tractor, ensuring that both locking collars are engaged.
  - iv) Lay the two halves of the shaft side by side and check the overlap of the profile tubes. **MINIMUM OVERLAP MUST NOT BE LESS THAN 350mm (14") WITH A CLEARANCE OF 25-38mm (1"-1.5") BETWEEN END OF TUBES AND YOKE WHEN THE DRIVE IS IN ITS SHORTEST POSITION.**
  - v) Should it be necessary to shorten the tubes, ensure that the ends are chamfered and cleaned before re-assembly.
  - vi) On re-assembly the tubes should be well greased and the guards fitted securely.
  - vii) On re-fitting the PTO shaft to the machine ensure that the PTO shaft securing chains are attached on both halves of the guards to the tractor and machine.
- d. After fitting the PTO shaft it will be necessary to lift the machine on the linkage to ensure that the shaft does not foul on the front edge of the top panel of the machine. If contact can be made, either the maximum lift height should be limited, or the top link should be shortened, thus avoiding damage. If shortening the top link, ensure that the machine is still flat on the ground when lowered. If not, the maximum lift height must be limited.

**USE OF MACHINE**

**NB ANY ABUSE OF THE MACHINE WILL INVALIDATE THE WARRANTY AND COULD CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD. USE ONLY AS RECOMMENDED IN THIS MANUAL.**

- a. Fit machine to tractor as instructed in section 3.
- b. Lower the machine onto level ground, adjust the top link until the rear support straps are slack. The machine, when operating, slides on the skids following the contours of the ground thus maintaining an even cutting height and maximum effective guarding.  
**ONLY OPERATE MACHINE WITH THE SKIDS IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUND.**
- c. The required cutting heights are 3" – 8".
  - i) Raise the machine off the ground ensuring that it is fully supported.  
**DO NOT RELY ON THE TRACTOR HYDRAULICS.**
  - ii) Before attempting any adjustment to the machine, always stop on level ground, apply the parking brake, stop the tractor engine and remove the ignition key before dismounting the tractor.
  - iii) Remove skid adjuster pins, move skid to required cutting position and replace pins.
- d. Raise the topper to the transport position.  
**DO NOT RAISE THE TOPPER OR TRAVEL TO THE SITE TO BE CLEARED WITH THE PTO RUNNING.**
- e. Check the area to be worked is clear of potentially dangerous debris before commencing cutting.
- f. Check that all bystanders and livestock are well clear of the area to be cut. We recommend a minimum of 100 metres.
- g. Ensure that all tractor doors and windows are closed.
- h. Lower the machine to the ground. Engage PTO drive at a slow engine speed, increase engine speed to give 540 rpm maximum.  
**DO NOT ENGAGE PTO AT HIGH ENGINE REVS OR MECHANICAL DAMAGE MAY BE CAUSED. DO NOT EXCEED 540 rpm.**
- i. Start cutting by moving forward at a safe working speed for the terrain and scrub to be cut. Always start slowly to ensure that you become familiar with the operation of the machine. Operational cutting speed is recommended as between 4 - 6 mph (subject to terrain).
- j. The machine is designed to operate with both side skids level on the ground at all times.
- k. Always reduce engine revs to tick-over before disengaging the PTO drive.
- l. Always disengage the PTO before lifting the machine.  
**DO NOT RUN THE TOPPER IN A RAISED POSITION.**

**NEVER LEAVE THE TRACTOR SEAT WITH THE MACHINE RUNNING. ALWAYS STOP ON LEVEL GROUND, APPLY THE PARKING BRAKE, STOP THE TRACTOR ENGINE AND REMOVE THE IGNITION KEY BEFORE DISMOUNTING THE TRACTOR.**

## 5 GENERAL MAINTENANCE

In order to ensure extended durability and optimum performance of the machine, you are advised to take careful note of the points laid out in this section.

Stop the tractor, apply the parking brake and remove the ignition key.

**NEVER WORK UNDER A RAISED MACHINE WITHOUT THE USE OF PROPER SUPPORTS.**

### a. DAILY

- i) Check gearbox oil level. The correct level is obtained by removing the plug mid way up the back of the gearbox and filling until oil runs out of this hole. To fill with oil remove the breather plug at the top of the gearbox. Use SAE 90 EP gear oil. Refit all plugs. Ensure the breather plug is fitted to the top of the gearbox.
- ii) Grease PTO shaft universal joints and sliding profiles.
- iii) If cutter blades are fitted they may require straightening, sharpening or replacing.
- iv) Check cutter chains for damage or wear and replace where necessary.
- v) Ensure that chain/blade locating bolts are tight and that the bushes are not worn. Replace as necessary.

**WHEN REPLACING CHAINS/BLADES OR BUSHES, ALWAYS CHECK FOR WEAR AND DAMAGE TO THE PIVOT BOLT AND NUT AND REPLACE IF NECESSARY. FAILURE TO DO THIS MAY RESULT IN THE BLADE/CHAIRS DETACHING THEMSELVES AND SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT.**

- vi) When the machine is new check tightness of all nuts and bolts after the first hour of use and then on a daily basis. Pay particular attention to the gearbox securing bolts and the chain/blade mounting bolts.
- vii) Ensure all safety guards and chain debris guards are correctly fitted and swing freely at all times.

## B END OF SEASON

- i) Items ii to vii inclusive from daily maintenance.
- ii) Empty oil from drive gearbox, clean with paraffin and fill with new SAE 90 EP oil. The correct level is obtained by removing the plug mid way up the back of the gearbox and filling until oil runs out of this hole. To fill with oil remove the breather plug at the top of the gearbox. Use SAE 90 EP gear oil. Refit all plugs. Ensure breather plug is fitted to top of gearbox.
- iii) Due to the corrosive nature of grass when cut, wash down the machine after use, especially when the machine is being stored for a long period.
- iv) Clear all debris wrapped around gearbox spindle and rotor disc.
- v) Grease all areas where corrosion may occur.
- vi) Check all chain debris guards and ensure they swing freely to produce correct guarding. Replace as necessary.
- vi) Support the machine off the ground and store in a clean, dry place.
- vii) Do not use a pressure washer to clean this machine.

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