

---

**New York State  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

---

Division of Water

---

# **Deep-Ripping and Decompaction**

---

**April 2008**

**New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation**

























The Deep Ripping and Decompaction practice is, by necessity, more extensive than periodic subsoiling of farmland. The cost of deep ripping and decompacting (deep subsoiling), will vary according to the depth and severity of soil-material compression and the relative amount of tractor and implement time that is required. In some instances, depending on open maneuverability, two-to-three acres of compacted project area may be deep-ripped in one day. In other situations of more severe compaction and - or less maneuverability, as little as one acre may be fully ripped in a day. Generally, if the Phase 1) Deep Ripping is fully effective, the Phase 2) Decompaction should be completed in  $2/3$  to  $3/4$  of the time required for Phase 1.

Using the example of two acres of Phase 1) Deep Ripping in one day, at \$1800 per day, the net cost is \$900 per acre. If the Phase 2) Decompacting or deep subsoiling takes  $3/4$  the time as Phase 1, it costs \$675 per acre for a combined total of \$1575 per acre to complete the practice (these figures do not include the cost of the separate practice of topsoil stripping and replacement). Due to the many variables, it must be recognized that cost will be determined by the specific conditions or constraints of the site and the availability of proper equipment.

## Resources

### Publications:

- American Society of Agricultural Engineers. 1971. *Compaction of Agricultural Soils*. ASAE.
- Brady, N.C., and R.R. Weil. 2002. *The Nature and Properties of Soils*. 13<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson Education, Inc.
- Baver, L.D. 1948. *Soil Physics*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Carpachi, N. 1987 (1995 fifth printing). *Excavation and Grading Handbook, Revised*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Craftsman Book Company
- Ellis, B. (Editor). 1997. *Safe & Easy Lawn Care: The Complete Guide to Organic Low Maintenance Lawn*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Harpstead, M.I., T.J. Sauer, and W.F. Bennett. 2001. *Soil Science Simplified*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Iowa State University Press.
- Magdoff, F., and H. van Es. 2000. *Building Soils for Better Crops*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Sustainable Agricultural Networks
- McCarthy, D.F. 1993. *Essentials of Soil Mechanics and Foundations, Basic Geotechnics* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Regents/Prentice Hall.
- Plaster, E.J. 1992. *Soil Science & Management*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Delmar Publishers.
- Union Gas Limited, Ontario, Canada. 1984. *Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands, Dawn-Kerwood Loop Pipeline; Technical Report*. Ecological Services for Planning, Ltd.; Robinson, Merritt & Devries, Ltd. and Smith, Hoffman Associates, Ltd.
- US Department of Agriculture in cooperation with Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. Various years. *Soil Survey of (various names) County, New York*. USDA.

### Internet Access:

- Examples of implements:  
V-Rippers. Access by internet search of *John Deere Ag -New Equipment for 915* (larger-frame model) *V-Rippe*; and, *for 913* (smaller-frame model) *V-Ripper*. Deep, angled-leg subsoiler. Access by internet search of: *Bigham Brothers Shear Bolt Paratill-Subsoiler*.  
[http://salesmanual.deere.com/sales/salesmanual/en\\_NA/primary\\_tillage/2008/feature/rippers/915v\\_pattern\\_frame.html?sbu=ag&link=prodcats](http://salesmanual.deere.com/sales/salesmanual/en_NA/primary_tillage/2008/feature/rippers/915v_pattern_frame.html?sbu=ag&link=prodcats) Last visited March 08.
- Soils data of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. *NRCS Web Soil Survey*. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> and *USDA-NRCS Official Soil Series Descriptions; View by Name*. <http://ortho.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/cgi-bin/osd/osdname.cgi> . Last visited Jan. 08.
- Soil penetrometer information. Access by internet searches of: *Diagnosing Soil Compaction using a Penetrometer (soil compaction tester)*, *PSU Extension*; as well as *Dickey-john Soil Compaction Tester*.  
<http://www.dickey-johnproducts.com/pdf/SoilCompactionTest.pdf> and <http://cropsoil.psu.edu/Extension/Facts/uc178pdf> Last visited Sept. 07