

Date:  
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# Equipment to Enable Increasing the Value of Manure



Aeromaster PT 120 compost turner purchased by the PRFA for use in projects and by members

## Members Who Used the Aeromaster PT120 Compost Turner:

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## What We Learned

Our experiences with the **Aeromaster PT120 Compost Turner** are summarized on this page, and our experiences with the **Lowlander 75 Manure Spreader** are covered on the next page.

## Members' Experiences

### What did you think of the design of the compost turner?

**Walter:** "This machine was well designed for turning with a good strong drive line. But you have to be very careful with transporting it because of the weight, height and counter ballast it becomes very top heavy in transport."

### What size of windrow works best?

**Rick:** "4 ft high by 12 ft wide by any length. A windrow 50 truck dumps long took about an hour to turn."

### How should the windrows be setup?

**Rick:** "Next time I would pair the windrows, with 2 feet between them, and a tractor width between the pairs. After they shrink, I can combine 2 windrows."

**Bill:** "We need to be more careful with bringing less clay from the pens."

**Walter:** "When the truckloads of manure are dumped from the pens, they need to be tight together, not fanned out too."

### Can we turn older manure piles?

**Rick:** "Yes, but don't get greedy. I broke an old pile apart and tried to make the windrow too big. It overworked the turner, so I ended up with 5 ton of shit to move with a pitchfork."

## Compost Turner For Rent Aeromaster PT120

Manufactured by Midwest Biosystems

### Rental Rates:

\$500/ day for current members  
\$1000 / day for new members

### Specs & Capacity:

Tractor requirements: 110 hp or more, 540 rpm PTO, 2 sets of hydraulics, creeper or extra low gear or hydrostatic drive, need to be able to go 1/2 kph or less

### For More Details:

[http://www.midwestbiosystems.com/PDF/Pull\\_Type\\_Turner\\_Specifications.pdf](http://www.midwestbiosystems.com/PDF/Pull_Type_Turner_Specifications.pdf)

### What timing is best for turning?

**Bill:** "In my situation, piling in the fall, and waiting until the spring to turn did not work well. There were delays in the frost coming out of the windrows."

**Rick:** "I tried making the windrows in the fall, turning once, and that made a cooler slower composting process. I also tried cleaning out the pens in the late spring, and turning them right away; that was a much hotter, quicker process."

### How long does the compost turning process take?

**Rick:** "The turning process with turning every 5 to 10 days, depending on the temperatures, seemed to take 6 to 8 weeks. Then there is a curing process."

### How many members could use the turner in a season?

**Rick:** "The turner can be in 2 locations / season. A location can include 2 or 3 members that live close to each other and can work well together. Staggering the start of composting would help with the peak times the turner is needed."

Peace River Forage Association  
of British Columbia



