

**PRIMARY USE:** To improve water penetration.

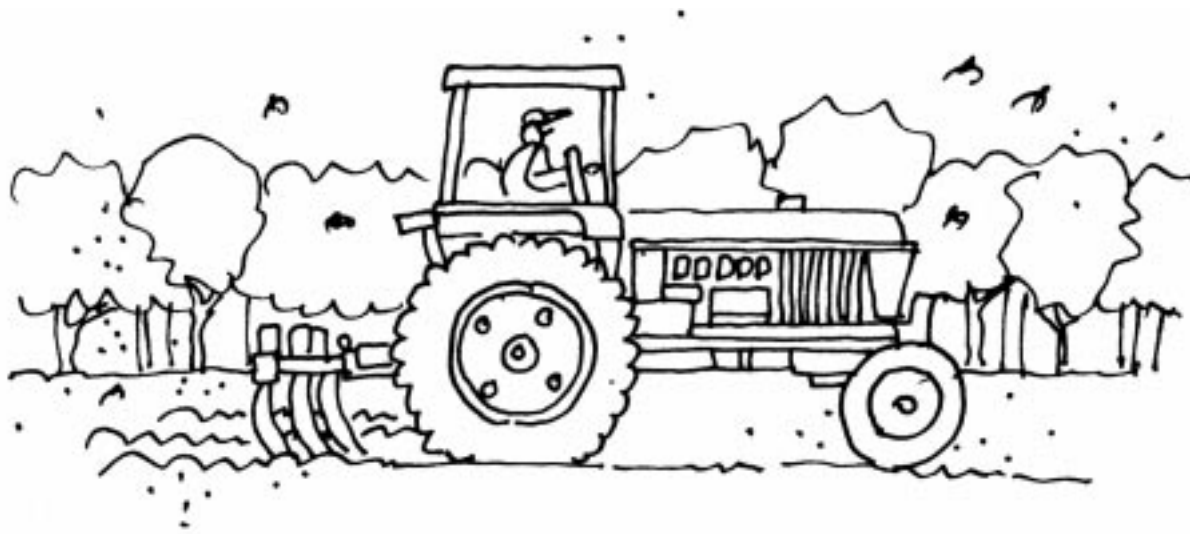
**ADDITIONAL USES:** To aerate root zone.

## CHISELING

**What is it?** Loosening the soil, without inverting and with a minimum of mixing of the surface soil.

### Purpose

To shatter restrictive layers below normal plow depth that inhibit water movement or root development to improve water and root penetration and aeration. The residue and rough, cloddy surface of the soil reduces raindrops impact and reduces runoff velocities thus reducing erosion.



**Chiseling  
Perspective View**

### Limitations

Restrictive soil layers must be less than 16 in (407 mm) deep.



### Materials

Earth.

### Installation

This system does not turn the soil over, but rather leaves it rough and cloddy with plenty of vegetative residue remaining. The soil density and amount of covering depends on the depth, size, shape, spacing, and so on of the chisel blades.

**Source:** Best Management Practices for Soil Erosion, Purdue University; NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, NRCS.