48” PLUG AERATOR

OWNER’S MANUAL



WARNING:

Read carefully and understand all **ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS** before operating. Failure to follow the safety rules and other basic safety precautions may result in serious personal injury.

Model # AE-48TL

12182025

Thank you very much for choosing this Yard Tuff product! For future reference, please complete the owner's record below:

Model: AE-48TL Purchase Date: _____

Save the receipt, warranty and these instructions. It is important that you read the entire manual to become familiar with this product before you begin using it.

This product is designed for certain applications only. The manufacturer cannot be responsible for issues arising from modification. We strongly recommend this product not be modified and/or used for any application other than that for which it was designed. If you have any questions relative to a particular application, DO NOT use the product until you have first contacted us to determine if it can or should be performed on the product.

For technical questions please call **1-218-943-6296**.

INTENDED USE

This tow-behind aerator helps to get water and nutrients to the roots of plants in compacted soil.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Item	Description
Working Width	48"
Wheels	10" pneumatic
Construction	Steel

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

WARNING: Read and understand all instructions. Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in serious injury.

CAUTION: Do not allow persons to operate or assemble this aerator until they have read this manual and have developed a thorough understanding of how the aerator works.

WARNING: The warnings, cautions, and instructions discussed in this instruction manual cannot cover all possible conditions or situations that could occur. It must be understood by the operator that common sense and caution are factors which cannot be built into this product, but must be supplied by the operator.

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

WORK AREA

- **Keep work area clean,** free of clutter and well lit. Cluttered and dark work areas can cause accidents.
- **Keep children and bystanders** away while operating the aerator. Distractions can cause you to lose control, so visitors should remain at a safe distance from the work area.
- **Be aware of all power lines, electrical circuits,** water pipes and other mechanical hazards in your work area, particularly those hazards below the work surface hidden from the operator's view that may be unintentionally contacted and may cause personal harm or property damage.
- **Be alert of your surroundings.**

PERSONAL SAFETY

- **Stay alert,** watch what you are doing and use common sense when using the aerator . Do not use the aerator while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication. A moment of inattention while operating the aerator may result in serious personal injury.
- **Dress properly.** Do not wear loose clothing, dangling objects, or jewelry. Keep your hair, clothing and gloves away from moving parts.
- **Use safety apparel and equipment.** Use safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields which comply with current national standards, or when needed, a face shield. Also use non-skid safety shoes, hardhat, heavy-duty work gloves, dust collection systems, and hearing protection when appropriate.

AERATOR USE AND CARE

- **Do not modify aerator in any way.** Unauthorized modification may impair the function and/or safety and could affect the life of the equipment. There are specific applications for which the aerator was designed.
- **Always check for damaged or worn out parts before using the aerator .** Broken parts will affect the aerator operation. Replace or repair damaged or worn parts immediately.
- **Do not exceed the aerator load capacity.**
- **Distribute the load evenly.** Uneven loads may cause the aerator to tip, resulting in personal injury to the operator or others.
- **Use the aerator on flat and level surfaces** capable of supporting the aerator and its maximum load. Pulling or pushing a load on a slanted or uneven surface can result in loss of control.
- **Storing aerator .** When the aerator is not in use, store it in a secure place out of the reach of children. Inspect it for good working condition prior to storage and before re-use.

Pre-assembly Instructions:

For best results, follow all directions step by step.
Read entire instruction manual first, then proceed with set up.
Open all boxes before beginning to assemble and check parts and hardware.
HELPFUL TIP: Read ALL instructions before starting to assemble.

Check Parts and Hardware:

Group together and check that all hardware and parts are included.
Refer to parts and hardware illustrations below.
If you are missing parts, contact Customer Service at 218-943-6296 for missing hardware or parts.

Recommended Tools for Assembly:

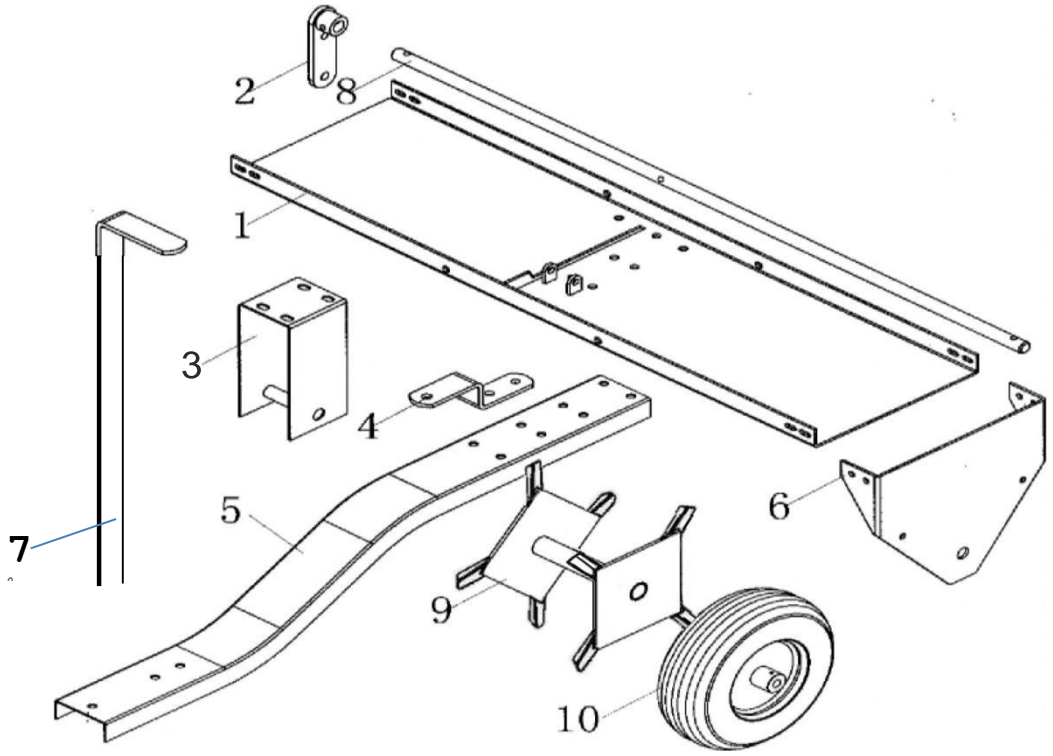
1 each Combination Wrench 10mm, 11 mm, 12mm, 13mm, 19mm (one ratcheting for faster work)
1 _Adjustable Wrench Medium Size
1 _Medium Size Pliers
1 Tape Measure may be useful to measure parts

PARTS LISTINGS:

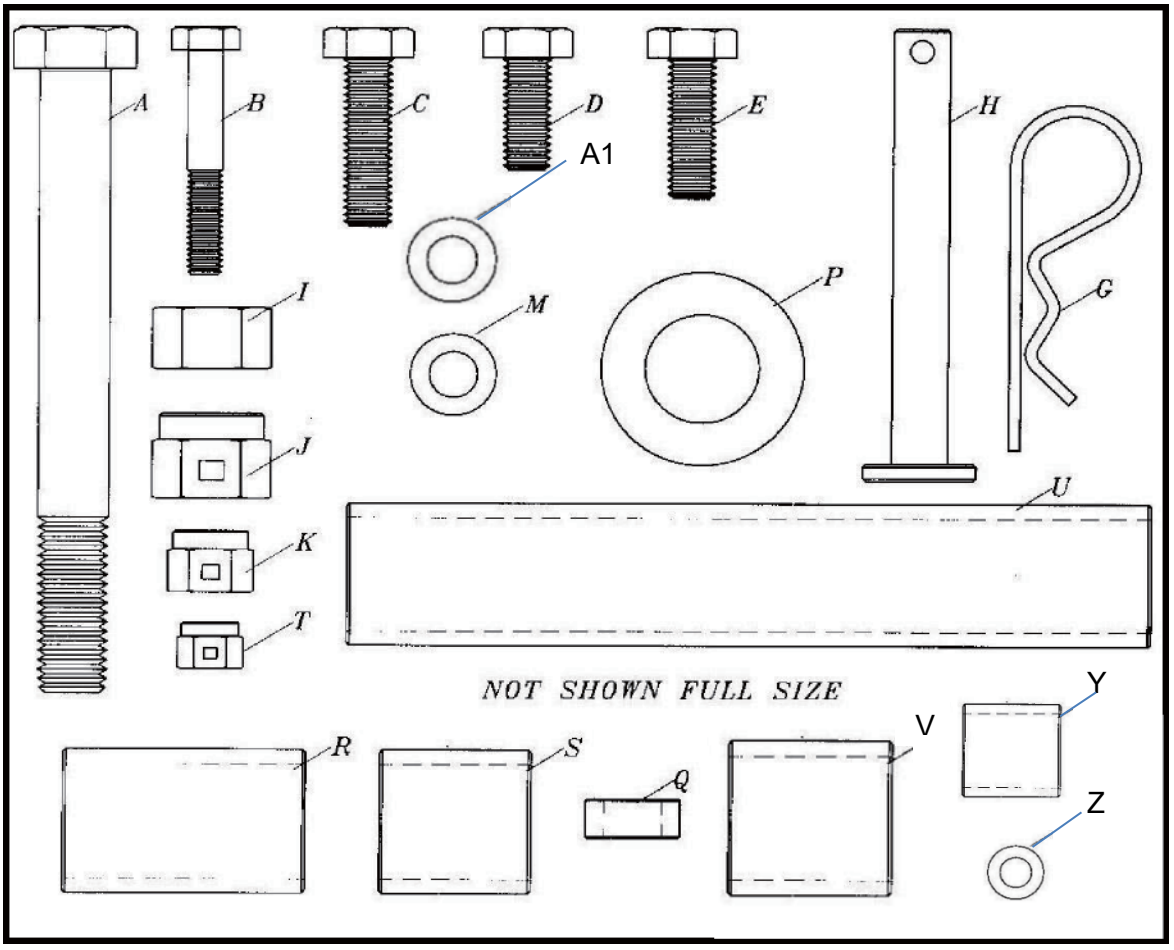
Main Parts Listing

Ref#	Part#	Qty	Description
1	AE48-01	1	Top Tray
2	AE48-02	3	Wheel Bracket
3	AE48-03	1	Middle Brace
4	AE48-04	1	Hitch Bracket
5	AE48-05	1	Tongue
6	AE48-06	2	End Plate

Ref#	Part#	Qty	Description
7	AE48-07	1	Lift Handle
8	AE48-08	1	Axle/ Shaft
9	AE48-09	4	Double Spool Assembly
10	AE48-10	2	Wheel Assembly



HARDWARE PARTS: (not actual size)



Hardware Pack Listing:

Ref#	Part #	Qty	Description
A	AE48-A	2	Hex Bolt M12 x 110mm
B	AE48-BT	3	Hex Bolt M6 x 40mm
C	AE48-C	4	Hex Bolt M8x 30mm
D	AE48-D	10	Hex Bolt M8 x 16mm
E	AE48-E	8	Hex Bolt M8 x 20mm
F	AE48-F	1	Lock Pin (Not Shown)
G	AE48-G	1	Hair Cotter Pin
H	AE48-H	1	Hitch Pin
I	AE48-I	2	Hex Nut, M12

Ref#	Part #	Qty	Description
J	AE48-J	2	Lock Nut, M12
K	AE48-K	22	Lock Nut, M8
M	AE48-M	22	Flat Washer, M8
P	AE48-P	4	Flat Washer, 22mm
Q	AE48-Q	8	Spacer 6mm long
R	AE48-RT	1	Spacer Tube, 53mm
S	AE48-S	1	Spacer Tube, 25mm
T	AE48-TT	3	Lock Nut, M6
U	AE48-U	2	Spacer Tube, 134mm
V	AE48-V	2	Spacer Tube 38mm
Y	AE48-Y	2	Spacer Tube 12mm
Z	AE48-Z	3	Flat Washer,6mm
A1	AE48-A1	4	Flat Washer,12mm

Assembly Instructions:

Step 1:

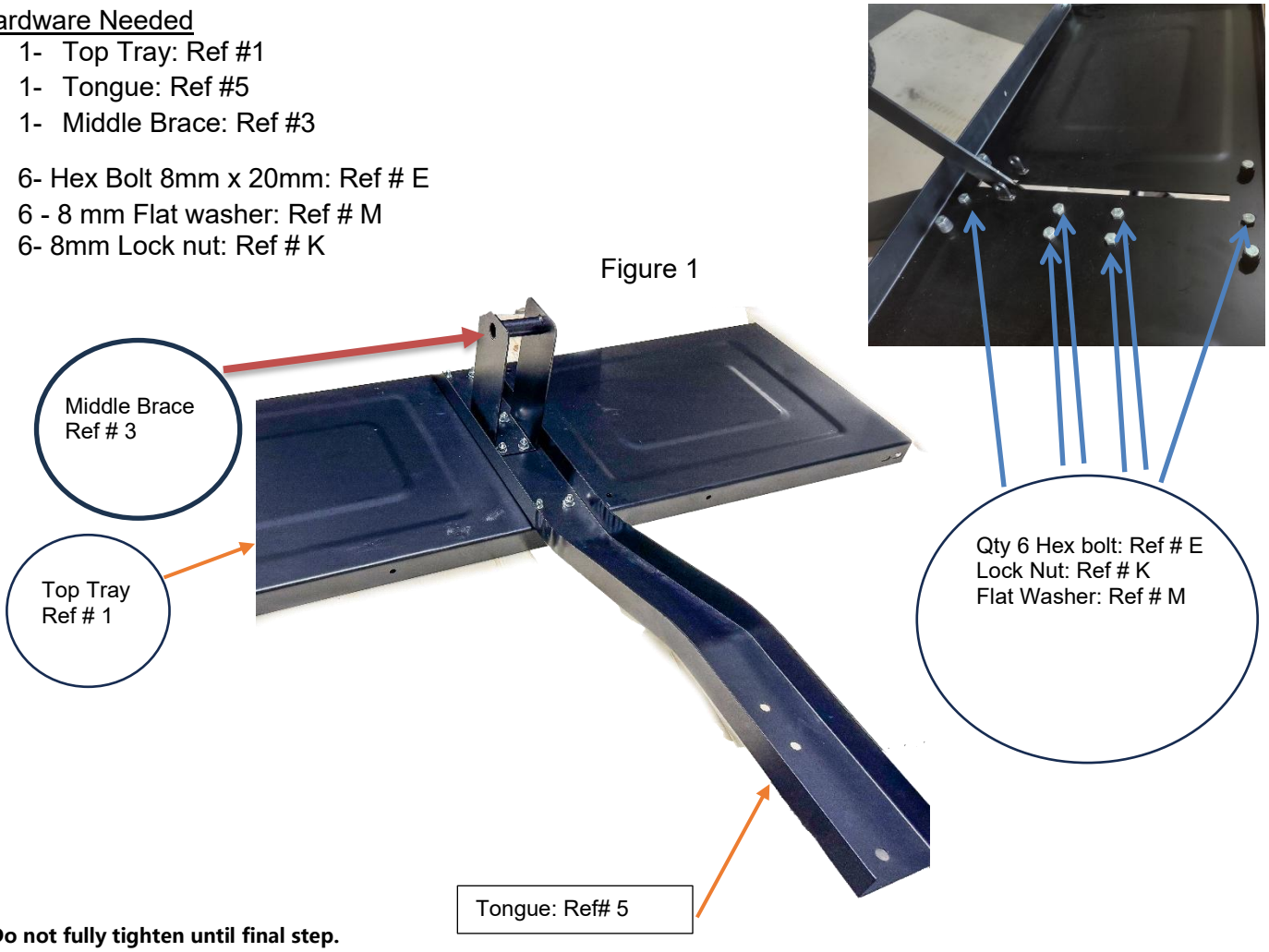
- Assembling Tongue & Middle Bracket to Top Tray as shown in Figure 1

Hardware Needed

1- Top Tray: Ref #1
1- Tongue: Ref #5
1- Middle Brace: Ref #3

6- Hex Bolt 8mm x 20mm: Ref # E
6 - 8 mm Flat washer: Ref # M
6- 8mm Lock nut: Ref # K

Figure 1



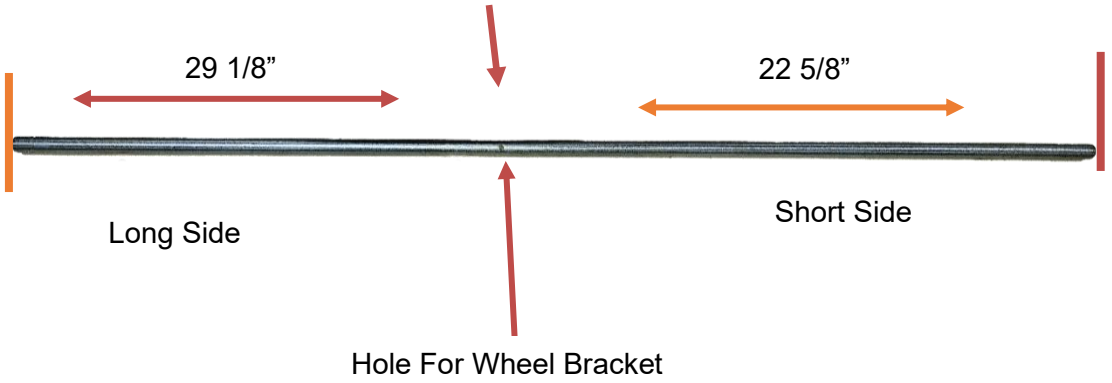
Do not fully tighten until final step.

Step 2: Determine Short and Long Side of Axle/ Shaft

Hardware Needed

1- Axle/ Shaft: Ref #8

Figure 2

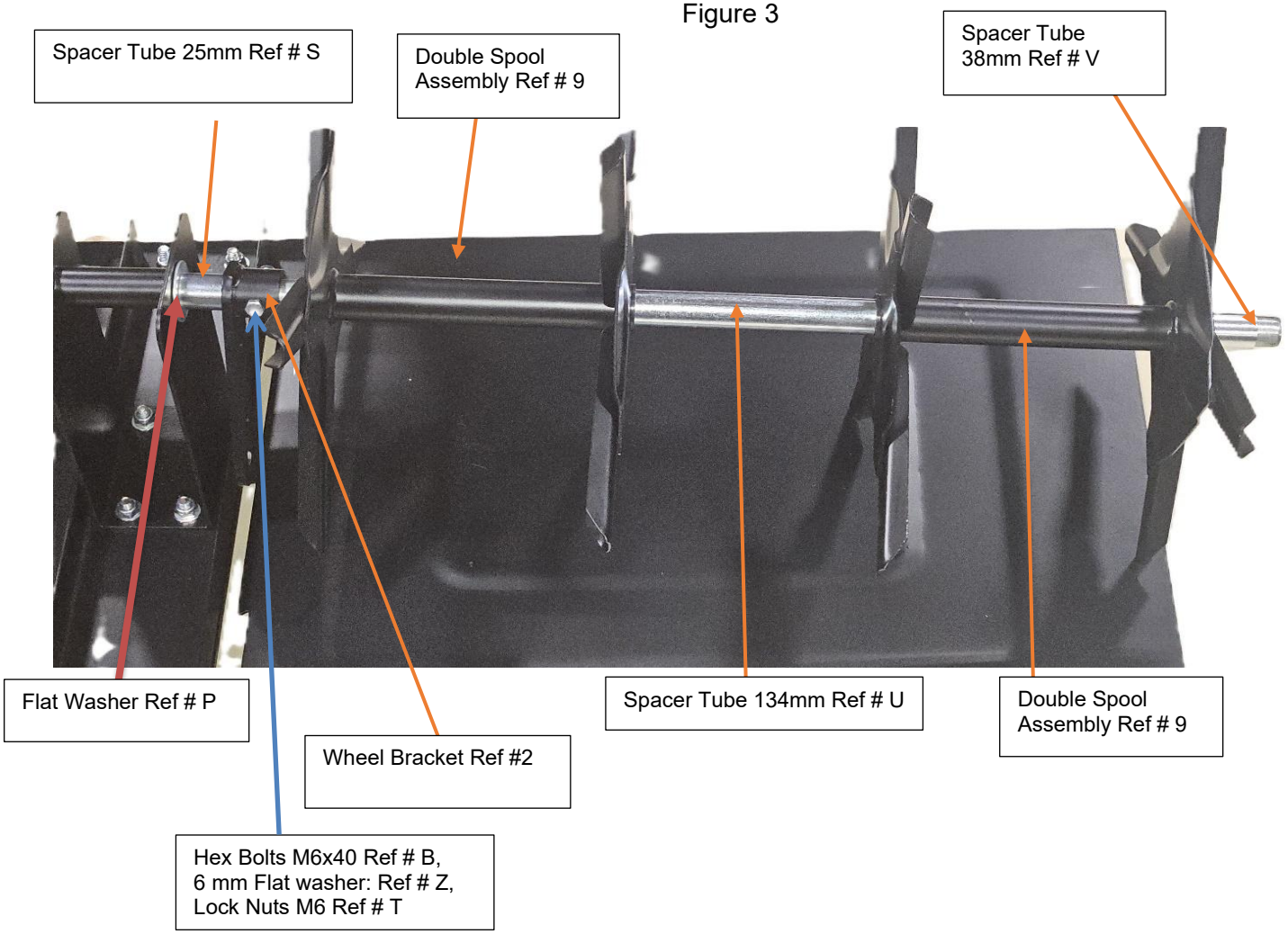


Step 3: Assemble Short Side of Axle/ Shaft as Shown in Figure 3 below.

Hardware needed:

1- 22mm Flat washer: Ref # P
1- Spacer Tube 25mm: Ref # S
1- Wheel Bracket: Ref # 2
2- Double Spool Assembly: Ref # 9
1- Space Tube 134mm: Ref # U
1- Spacer Tube 38mm: Ref # V
1- Hex Bolts M6x40 Ref # B
1- 6 mm Flat washer: Ref # Z
1- Lock Nuts M6 Ref # T

Figure 3



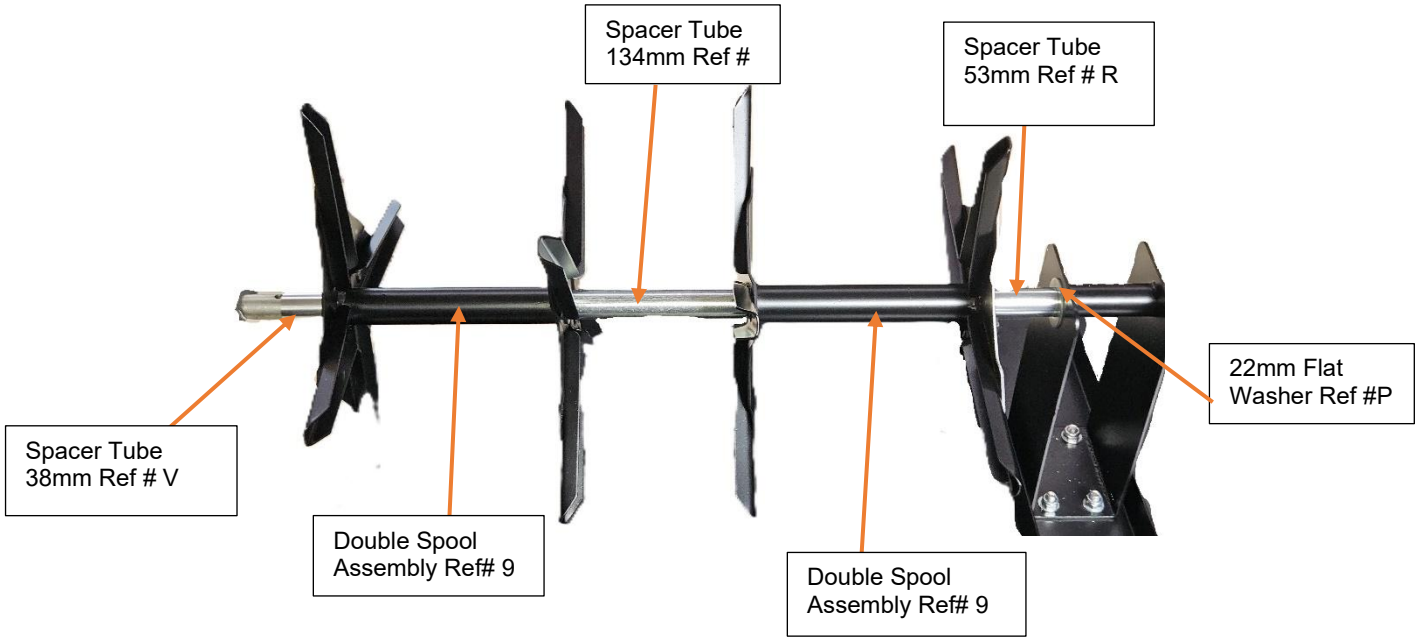
Step 4:

Assemble Long side of Axle/ Shaft as shown in Figure 4 below

Hardware needed:

1- 22 mm Flat Washer: Reference # P
1- Spacer Tube 53mm: Reference # R
2- Double Spool Assembly's: Reference # 9
1- Spacer Tube 134mm: Reference # U
1- Spacer Tube 38mm Reference # V.

Figure 4



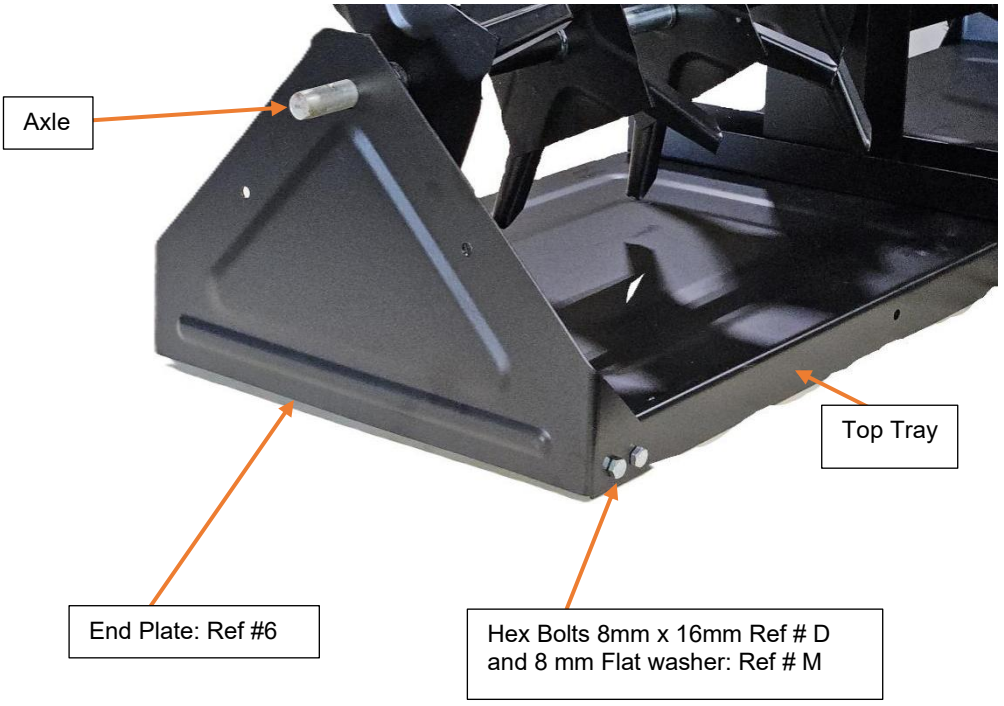
Step 5:

Assemble End Plats onto Top Tray as shown in Figure 5. Assemble both End Plates.

Hardware Needed:

2- End Plates: Ref # 6
8- Hex bolts 8mm x 16mm Ref # D
8- Lock Nuts: Ref #K
8 - 8 mm Flat washer: Ref # M

Figure 5



Step 6: Assemble the lift handle to the wheel bracket on axle shaft as shown in Figure 6 & 6A.

Step 6 Hardware Needed
1- Lift Handle Ref # 7
2- Hex Bolts M8x20mm Ref # E
2- Lock Nuts M8 Ref # K
2 - 8 mm Flat washer: Ref # M

Figure 6



Figure 6A

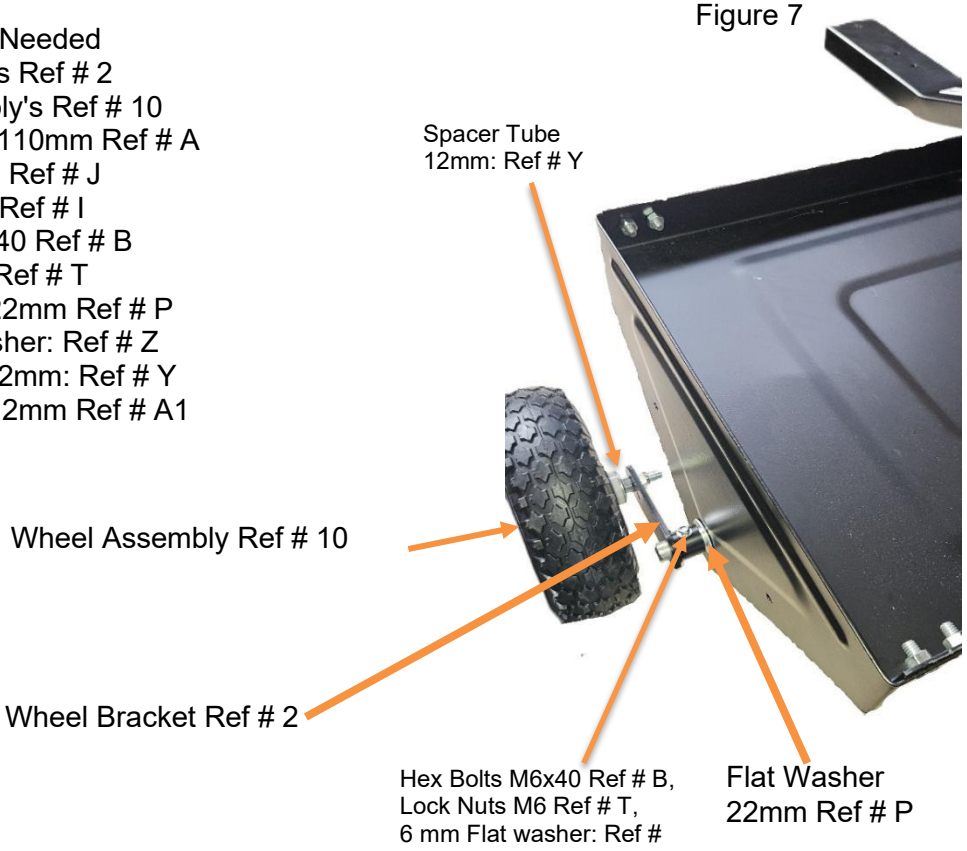


Do not fully tighten until final step.

Step 7: Assemble the wheel bracket & wheel assembly as shown in Figure 7.

Step 7 Hardware Needed
2- Wheel Brackets Ref # 2
2- Wheel Assembly's Ref # 10
2- Hex Bolt M12x110mm Ref # A
2- Lock Nuts M12 Ref # J
2- Hex Nuts M12 Ref # I
2- Hex Bolts M6x40 Ref # B
2- Lock Nuts M6 Ref # T
2- Flat Washers 22mm Ref # P
2 - 6 mm Flat washer: Ref # Z
2- Spacer Tube 12mm: Ref # Y
4- Flat Washers 12mm Ref # A1

Figure 7



Step 8: Top Tray Weight Stops. Install weight stops as shown in Figure 8

Figure 8

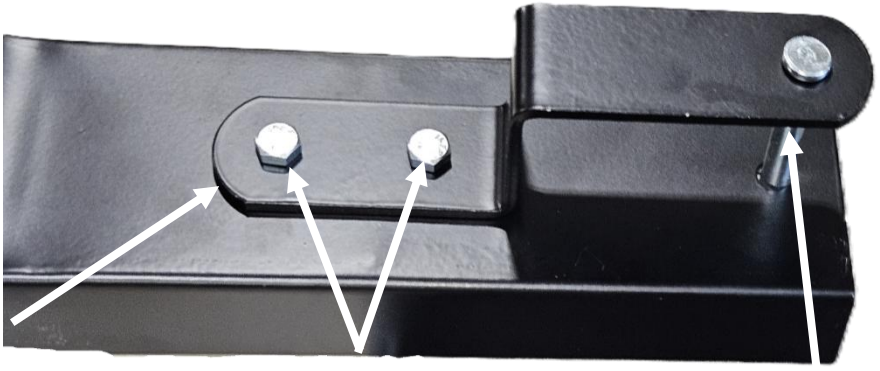
Hardware Needed
4- Hexbolts M8x30mm Ref # C
4- Lock Nut M8 Ref # K
4- Flat Washer M8 Ref # M
8- Spacer 6mm Long Ref # Q



Install Hex Bolt M8x30 Ref # C, Flatwasher M8 Ref # M, qty 2 Spacer 6mm Long through top tray and assemble with Lock Nut M8 Ref # K

Step 9: Assemble Hitch Bracket & Hitch Pin onto Tongue as shown in Figure 9

Hardware Needed
1- Hitch Bracket Ref # 4
2- Hex Bolt M8x16mm Ref D
2- Lock Nut M8 Ref # K
1- Hitch Pin Ref # H
1- Hair Cotter Pin # G
2 - 8 mm Flat washer: Ref # M



Hitch Bracket Ref # 4

Hex Bolt M8x16mm Ref # D
Lock Nut M8 Ref # M

Hitch Pin Ref # H

Final Step: Check Handle & Tighten Connections

Carefully place the aerator upright on the wheels.
Check that lift handle moves freely with-in slot;
IF NEEDED, make following adjustments
Lock the lift handle by moving into large offset hole in front of tray slot, then secure with locking pin. Refer to Figure #10.

For #1 in Figure #10:
Adjust the Tray side to side until the lift handle moves freely from back to front

For #2 in Figure #10:
Re-straighten end plates, then fully tighten all 8 corner connections making sure lift handle still moves freely.

Tighten middle brace and top tray connections from step 1 and 6

CHECK THAT ALL CONNECTIONS ARE TIGHT.

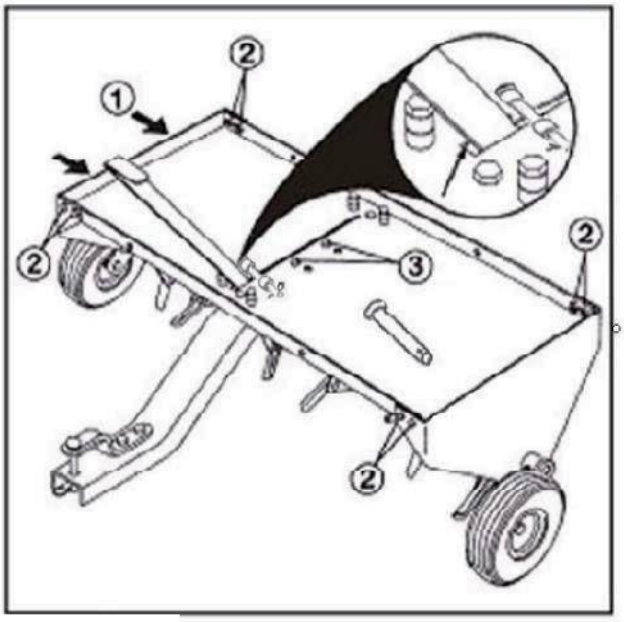


Figure 10

Figure #10 Close Up Photo

BEHIND THE LIFT ARM on the top tray is a place for locking pin device. Slide locking pin through holes when aerator is in the upright position. This is a safety lock to keep the aerator from dropping down while towing and not in use. This can help prevent damage to plug knives.

Your Aerator is now fully assembled and ready for use.

MAINTENANCE :

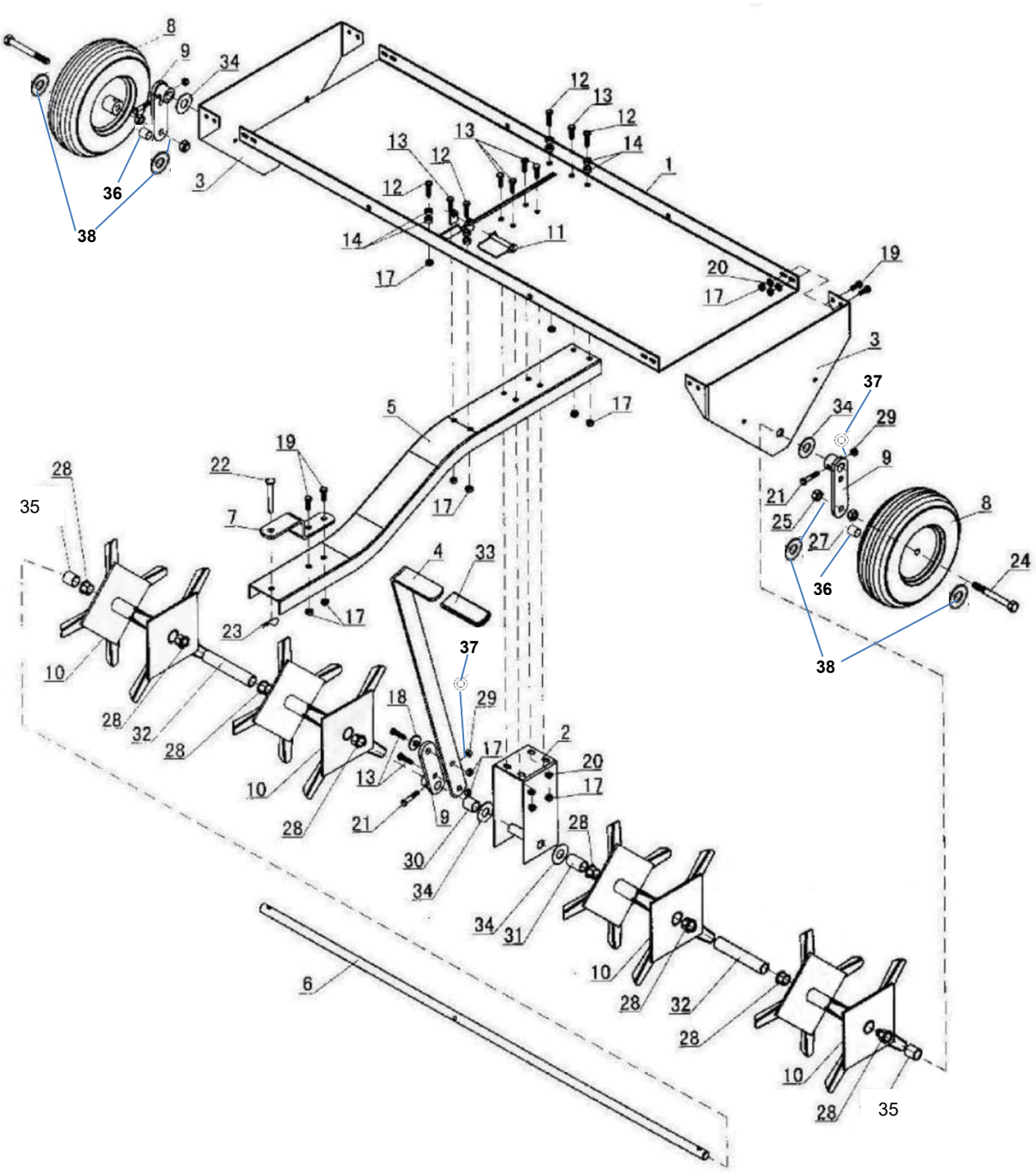
Plugger knives can be periodically sharpened with a small grinder to have continued good plugs from the soil.

Oil the axle shaft and wheel hubs as needed with spray lubricant or small amount of grease

Clean and dry the aerator before long periods of storage.

DO NOT EXCEED maximum weight capacity on top tray.

AE-48TL


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AE-48TL

Ref#	Part #	Description	QTY
1	AE48-01	Top Tray	1
2	AE48-03	Middle Brace	1
3	AE48-06	End Plate	2
4	AE48-07	Lift Handle	1
5	AE48-05	Tongue	1
6	AE48-08	Axle / Shaft	1
7	AE48-04	Hitch Bracket	1
8	AE48-10	Wheel Assembly	2
9	AE48-02	Wheel Bracket	3
10	AE48-09	Welded Double Spool Assembly	4
11	AE48-F	Lock Pin M10X70	1
12	AE48-C	Hex Bolt M8 x 30	4
13	AE48-E	Hex Bolt M8 x 20mm	8
14	AE48-Q	Spacer 6mm	8

Ref#	Part #	Description	QTY
17	AE48-K	Lock Nut, M8	22
19	AE48-D	Hex Bolt M8 x 16	10
20	AE48-M	Flat Washer,8mm	22
21	AE48-BT	Hex Bolt M6 x 40	3
22	AE48-H	Hitch Pin	1
23	AE48-G	Hair Cotter Pin	1
24	AE48-A	Hex Bolt M12 x 110	2
25	AE48-J	Lock Nut, M12	2
27	AE48-I	Hex Nut, M12	2
28	AE-48X	Split Plastic Bearing	8
29	AE48-TT	Lock Nut, M6	3
30	AE48-S	Spacer Tube, 25mm	1
31	AE48-RT	Spacer Tube, 53mm	1
32	AE48-U	Spacer Tube, 134mm	2
33	AE-48W	Handle Grip	1
34	AE48-P	Flat Washer, 22	4
35	AE48-V	Spacer 38mm	2
36	AE48-Y	Spacer Tube 12mm	2
37	AE48-Z	Flat Washer,6mm	3
38	AE48-A1	Flat Washer,12mm	4

For replacement parts and technical questions, please call 1-218-943-6296

WARRANTY:

12 months limited parts warranty

TG
PO Box 203
Miltona, MN 56354
Made in Thailand