

Round Harrow

A farmer knew that a well tilled field was essential to growing a good crop, and a harrow was an essential implement. First the ground would be plowed, and then the turned furrows were worked down with a couple of passes with a disc harrow that sliced up clods and did the initial smoothing. Lastly a harrow, an open frame with several rows of either spike or spring teeth and sometimes called a smoothing, or drag harrow, was run over the field until the soil was in good tilth for planting.

When seeds were commonly sowed *by broadcasting*, or scattering them evenly on the field, a harrow was used to cover the seeds. After the planted seeds and the weeds were just peeking through the ground, a spike tooth harrow was commonly run over the field. The tender young weeds would be uprooted, while the deeper-rooted crop plants would survive.

By the 1850s, round and square harrows, made of wood with cast iron teeth were popular. However, the iron teeth often snapped off when a rock or other obstruction was struck and manufacturers began to use steel teeth and iron frames, and added levers to change the angle of the teeth.