

## Customer Profile: Natick Community Organic Farm

Growing the Next Generation of Agriculture

<u>Progressive Grower Agricultural Supply</u> recently partnered with the non-profit Natick Community Organic Farm to supply a BCS Flail Mower for use in their no-till farming practice. Delivered in mid-June, the BCS Tractor-powered Flail Mower will be put to work trimming surplus crop growth and keeping rows clean for ongoing production all season long.

Using a BCS Two-Wheeled Tractor means farm helpers can nimbly manage tight spaces and corners with ease, unlike more traditional heavy farm tractors. NCOF also sources greenhouse supplies like Heat Mats, to warm the rooting area to improve germination and rooting of plants at the beginning of the season.



The <u>Natick Community Organic Farm (NCOF)</u> is a nonprofit, certified-organic farm providing productive open space, farm products, and hands-on education for all ages, year-round. Staying true to the belief that "education is our biggest crop," they are innovators in cultivating young future farmers, starting Young Farmers ages 4 and up.

NCOF's Mentoring Teens through Agriculture Apprenticeship Program will be using the flail mower as part of their farm work. Apprentices take on an internship afterschool and during school vacations, getting soup to nuts training in running a diversified organic educational farm, while practicing their leadership skills. Quite a few NCOF Apprentices have gone to schooling and careers in agriculture, or related fields. Learning how to handle equipment, like a flail mower, is key for teaching them small-space, organic farm operations.

## **Learn More: No-Till Farming**

The no-till farming practiced by NCOF is a method for growing crops without disturbing the soil through traditional tillage, or mechanical soil agitation, such as digging, stirring, and overturning. No-till technique increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil, boosting the soil's retention of organic matter and its nutrients recycling. It is primarily favored for its role in improving soil biological fertility and the efficiency of farm operations.

## **About the Equipment**



BCS Tractors were developed to increase agricultural productivity and can dramatically reduce the physical effort needed to harvest crops. Simple but powerful, BCS Tractors are easy-to-use, versatile two-wheeled tractors capable of performing a wide range of tasks, ranging from mowing, to seedbed preparation, to snow removal. In recent years they have



become extremely popular among market gardeners and organic farms where

maximizing budgets and small space productivity are the priorities for growing efficiently.

The BCS Flail Mower attachment in use at NCOF is ideal for shredding cover crops – a key step in no-till farming - for quick decomposition. The Flail Mower has vertically rotating blades that pulverize plant material into a fine pulp that is evenly spread across the mowing width.

**Progressive Grower Ag Supply:** Competitively Supplying Growing Needs Progressive Grower is a rapidly growing star in the BCS dealer family. The company is delivering to growers from the south coast of Rhode Island out to the organic farms of Vermont and everywhere in between, plus specialty agriculture customers in Long Island and upstate New York.



Progressive Grower Agricultural & Turf Supply is a family owned business originated in West Wareham, MA; the heart of the agricultural community in Southeastern Massachusetts. Customers choose from a wide variety of growing supplies, including products for landscaping, turf management, greenhouse, and farm goods. By focusing on service and anticipating customer needs, Progressive Grower delivers a level of attention hard to find in larger national chain stores. Locations include Riverhead, Islandia, and Albany in New York; and Raynham and West Wareham in Massachusetts. Find more information on Progressive Grower's products for landscaping, turf management, greenhouse, and farming online at <a href="mailto:progressivegrower.com/catalog">progressivegrower.com/catalog</a>.