

Tractor Types. Standard, Row Crop, Wheatland, Western, High Clearance, Cane, Orchard, Fairway, Utility or Industrial tractor

Farm tractors come in two basic forms. Row crop and Standard.

Standard tractors came first. A Standard tractor has a wide and relatively low stance.

It has two large drive wheels on the rear and two smaller steering wheels on the front.

The wheels are fixed in location. They cannot be easily adjusted for width.

The McCormick W-6 exemplifies a Standard tractor.

IHC developed the first row crop tractor. They branded it the Farmall. Row crop tractors have a higher stance to allow space for growing crops to pass underneath. A typical row crop tractor has two closely spaced steering wheels on the front.

A row crop tractor has a high power to weight ratio, it is relatively nimble and can turn in a small diameter.

All those characteristics improve the row crop tractor's ability to work in planted fields.

A Farmall H is a good example of a row crop tractor.

Both Standard and Row Crop tractors were produced in numerous variations for special uses.

Standard tractors were produced in Wheatland, Orchard, Vineyard, Rice, Industrial and Utility versions.

A tractor designated as a Wheatland or a Western was very close to or the same as the Standard version. It normally had fixed wheel width, was loaded with weight for improved traction, had hydraulics, PTO and a belt drive pulley.

An Orchard or Vineyard tractor had sweeping fenders and added sheet metal to minimize snags on limbs or vines. The exhaust and air intake lines were mounted to avoid obstruction. Often the exhaust exited beneath and to the rear of the tractor.

An ideal Orchard tractor is low, relatively small, with rear entry for the operator.

A Rice tractor has extra wide tires for flotation. The lugs on the rear tires are deeper and more aggressive. A Rice tractor also has special covering on all exposed parts to keep mud and water out. Rice tractors were chosen from the larger models.

An Industrial version often had beefed-up or reinforced parts such as the front axle, to endure heavy, rough use. The Industrials commonly had a foot pedal accelerator in addition to the fixed lever accelerator.

They might be smaller for airport or factory use, or large for highway construction.

These tractors were frequently painted yellow or another unique color as prescribed by the buyer.

A Utility tractor is normally smaller and highly maneuverable. It is designed to carry mounted loaders, blades and even backhoes. Because of those extra attachments, Utility tractors need excellent, multi-port hydraulics. These tractors were most often designated for farm chores, but were also requested for commercial yard and factory use.

Row Crop tractors were produced in Fairway, High Clearance and Cane versions.

Fairway tractors have smoother tires front and back to minimize scuffing of grass. These tractors are often equipped as light in weight as possible for the same reason. When IH introduced the first row crop tractor in 1924, which was simply designated the "Farmall", they also introduced a version for golf courses designated the "Fairway".

High Clearance tractors, often referred to as "High Clears" are just that. The wheels or axles are designed to raise the body of the tractor from 8 inches to several feet above normal. That extra space allows the use of the tractor in growing or mature crops. High Clear tractors often have the letter "V" added to their model designation. The V may have stood for Vegetable originally.

Cane tractors had special tires, front and rear. Front tires were often single rib. The lugs on the

rear tires are deeper and more aggressive. Because cane farming is a commercial operation, Cane tractors worked in a different environment in many ways. They received hard and heavy use by hired workers, not by farmer-owners. These tractors were often worked in a corrosive coastal environment.



ABOVE: Farmall H row crop. Narrow front, adjustable with rear wheels, high clearance all identify a row-crop.



ABOVE: This W 450 Standard that can be further identified as a Wheatland (or Western as you prefer) by the over-the-tire fenders.



ABOVE: This International 350 is a classic Utility tractor. Low, wide stance, lots of hydraulics, versatile FAST HITCH drawbar, lights and shield fenders.



ABOVE: McCormick W-6 Standard. Swinging drawbar, fixed, widely spaced wheels, and semi-closed operator's platform all help to identify a Standard.



ABOVE: This O-12 Orchard model is easily identified by the sweeping sheet metal and lack of obstructions such as air inlet and muffler.



ABOVE: The International 240 Utility is not an original Fairway. Those were specially manufactured row crop tractors. This tractor is what passed for a golf course (fairway) tractor in the 1960s. Note the special turf (grass) tires.