

**14SB and 14SE
21-Inch
Walk-Behind
Rotary Mowers**
14SB (Serial No. 255001—)
14SE (Serial No. 225001—)

**John Deere Horicon Works
OMM118170 Issue K2**

LITHO IN U.S.A.
ENGLISH

Introduction

READ THIS MANUAL carefully to learn how to operate and service your machine correctly. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or equipment damage.

THIS MANUAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED a permanent part of your machine and should remain with the machine when you sell it.

MEASUREMENTS in this manual are given in both metric and customary U.S. unit equivalents. Use only correct replacement parts and fasteners. Metric and inch fasteners may require a specific metric or inch wrench.

RIGHT-HAND AND LEFT-HAND sides are determined by facing in the direction of forward travel.

WRITE PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (P.I.N.) in the Specification or Identification Numbers section. Accurately record all the numbers to help in tracing the machine should it be stolen. Your dealer

also needs these numbers when you order parts. File the identification numbers in a secure place off the machine.

WARRANTY is provided as part of John Deere's support program for customers who operate and maintain their equipment as described in this manual. The warranty is explained on the warranty certificate which you should have received from your dealer.

This warranty provides you the assurance that John Deere will back its products where defects appear within the warranty period. In some circumstances, John Deere also provides field improvements, often without charge to the customer, even if the product is out of warranty. Should the equipment be abused, or modified to change its performance beyond the original factory specifications, the warranty will become void and field improvements may be denied. Setting fuel delivery above specifications or otherwise overpowering machines will result in such action.



Model 14SB

M73482
-UN-07MAR91

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All information, illustrations and specifications in this manual are based on the latest information available at the time of publication. The right is reserved to make changes at any time without notice.

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Safety

PREPARE BEFORE YOU OPERATE

Check hardware often, especially blade and engine mounting bolts. Keep them tight.

Discharge chute, grass bag, or mulch plug must be in good condition, held in place by door.

To help prevent fires:

- Keep engine clean, especially cooling fins. Replace faulty muffler.

Wear close-fitting clothing and substantial footwear. Do not go barefoot or wear sandals.

Protect eyes with shield, safety glasses, or goggles.

Protect ears with earplugs or ear muffs.

Focus on mowing. Do not wear headphones.

Be prepared for fire. Keep fire extinguisher and first aid kit handy. Keep medical and fire department emergency numbers near the telephone.

MX.SAFW.C -19-03SEP92

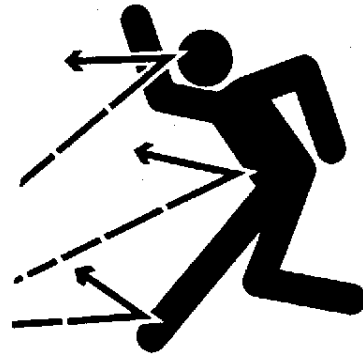
PROTECT AGAINST THROWN OBJECTS

Do not mow when people are in the mowing area.

Before you mow, clear area of objects that might be thrown by blade: sticks, rocks, bones, wire, etc.

Discharge clippings away from people.

Do not lift or block discharge door open when blade is ENGAGED.



MX.SAFW.D -19-03SEP92

IM41423 -UN-30AUG88

PROTECT CHILDREN

KEEP CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE WHILE YOU MOW.

If children come into the mowing area, STOP MOWER. Move children to a safe place. Also keep other people and pets out of the mowing area.

Do not let children or untrained persons operate mower.

Do not leave mower unattended with engine running.



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OPERATE MOWER SAFELY

Do not use mower for anything but mowing.

Mow only dry grass.

WALK when you mow. Do not run. Keep a firm hold on the handle.

Mow across a slope, not up and down. Do not mow a steep slope where you can not maintain firm footing and control of mower.

Do not tilt mower or pick it up with engine running.

Do not leave mower on a slope. Put it on a level surface.

Mow in daylight or good artificial light.

Stay alert for holes and hidden hazards.

Be sure of footing. Use great care when you pull mower backwards with engine running.

Be especially careful when you change direction on a slope.

If mower starts to vibrate abnormally, STOP engine and fix the problem. Vibration is usually a sign of trouble.

STOP engine before you leave, clean, or inspect mower.

Let engine cool and clean debris from mower before you store it indoors.

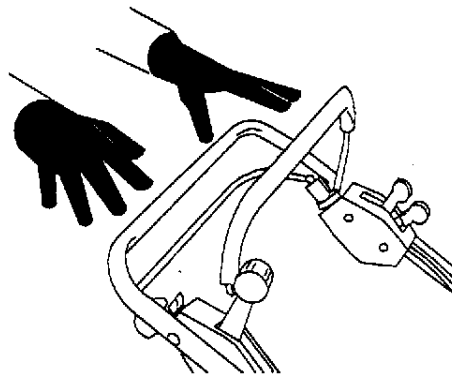
If you hit an object, stop mower. Fix damage before you operate.

MX,SAFW,F -19-03SEP92

EMERGENCY STOP

Release the handle and levers:

- The mower will STOP.
- The blade will STOP.
- The engine will NOT STOP.



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M61445 -UN-01SEP88



AVOID INJURY FROM MOVING PARTS

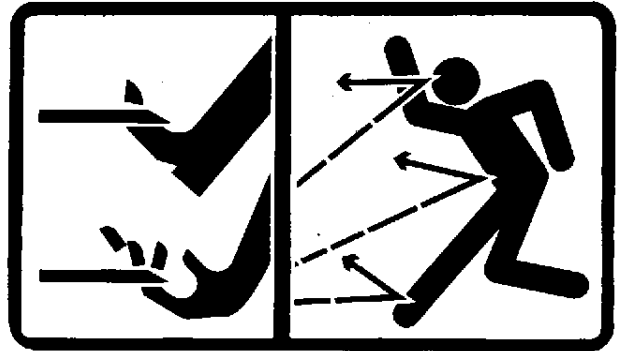
Keep hands, feet, and clothing away from mower deck and discharge chute when blade is turning.

Do not make adjustments while engine is running, unless procedure is approved. STOP ENGINE, then adjust.

Stop mower blade:

- Before you move between jobs.
- Before you cross a gravel surface.
- When you are not mowing.

STOP engine before you lift discharge door.



M41447 -UN-30AUG88

MX,SAFW,J -19-03SEP92

SERVICE MOWER SAFELY

Do not modify mower unless changes are approved by John Deere.

Do not change governor setting or overspeed engine.

Before you service mower:

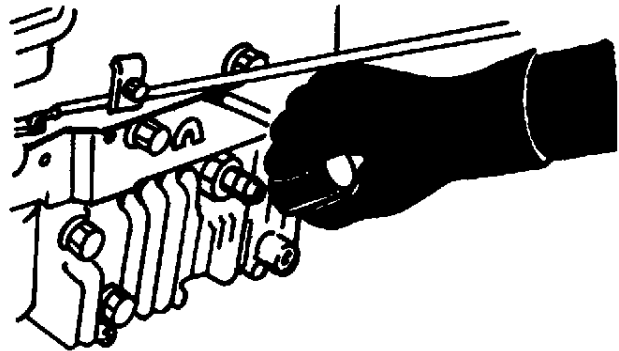
- Put it on a level surface
- STOP engine. Let it cool.
- Disconnect spark plug wire. Keep wire away from plug to help prevent accidental starting.

Wear gloves when you service blade.

Keep parts in good condition, and fastened in place.

Replace worn or damaged parts immediately.

If fuel tank has to be drained, do it outdoors.

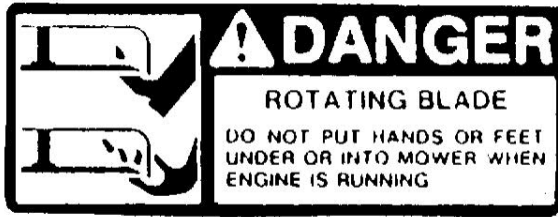


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READ SAFETY SIGNS



M73170 -19-23FEB90

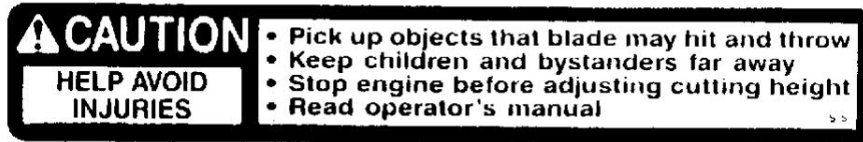
Left Side of Deck



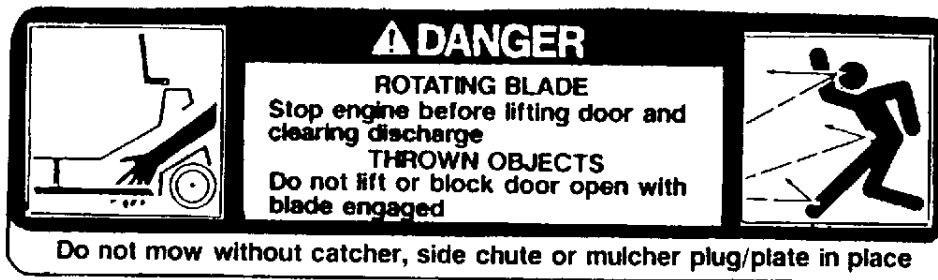
M73171 -19-23FEB90

Right Side of Deck

M73149 -19-23FEB90



Top, Rear of Engine



M73467 -19-02JAN91

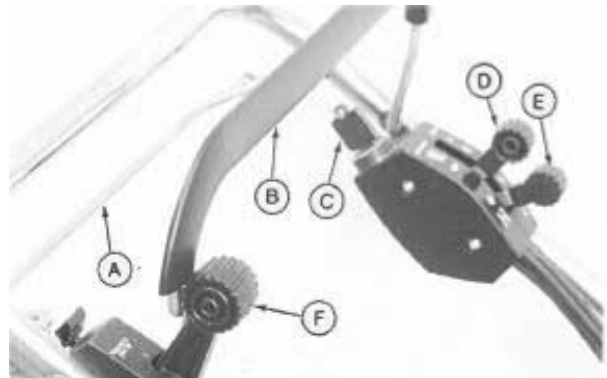
Rear of Door

MX,SAFW,A -19-03SEP92

Controls

UPPER HANDLE CONTROLS

- A—Traction Clutch Lever
- B—Blade Lockout and Stop Lever
- C—Key (14SE)
- D—Gear Shift Lever
- E—Throttle Lever
- F—Blade Engagement Lever

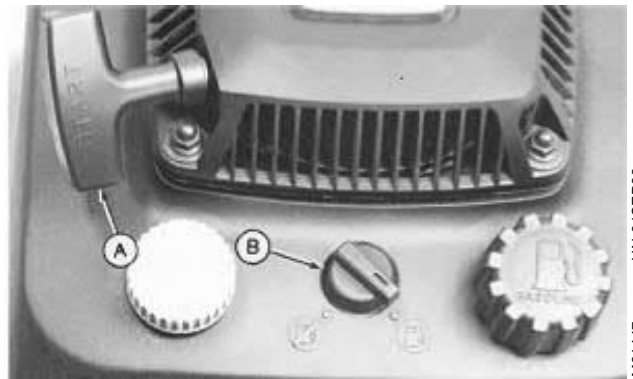


MX,CTBV,A -19-03SEP92

M61446 -UN-01SEP88

ENGINE CONTROLS

- A—Starter Handle
- B—Fuel Shutoff Knob



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M61447 -UN-01SEP88

HANDLE AND CUTTING HEIGHT CONTROLS

- A—Cutting Height Lever
- B—Handle Height Knob
- C—Fold-Handle Knob



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M73479 -UN-07MAR91

Operating Engine

OPEN FUEL SHUTOFF

⚠ CAUTION: Engine exhaust fumes can cause sickness or death. Run engine only in ventilated area. If you run engine in an enclosed area, remove exhaust with exhaust pipe extension, or open door to bring in outside air.

Turn the fuel shutoff knob (A) to the OPEN position.



MX, OEBV, A -19-03SEP92

M61451 -UN-01SEP88

ELECTRIC STARTING (14SE)

1. COLD ENGINE: Push throttle lever (A) to the CHOKE position.

• WARM ENGINE: Push throttle lever to the FAST position.

NOTE: If battery is low:

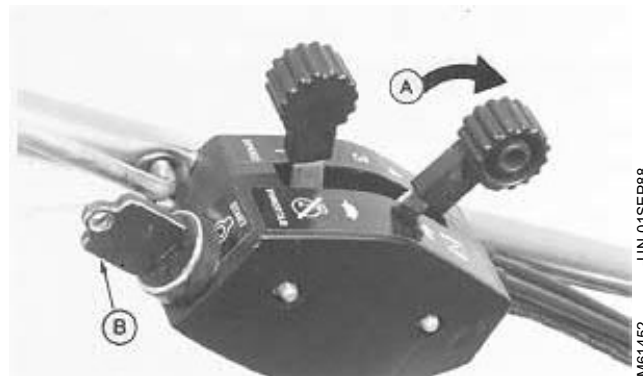
- Start engine with recoil starter. (See *MANUAL STARTING* in this section.)
- Charge battery. (See *CHARGE BATTERY* in *Service—Engine* section.)

2. Turn key (B) to the START position:

- Crank engine 5 seconds.
- If engine does not start, wait 10 seconds.
- Crank engine again 5 seconds.
- Repeat this procedure if necessary.

3. Release key when engine starts.

4. Pull throttle lever back to the HALF-THROTTLE position.



MX, OEBV, B -19-03SEP92

M61452 -UN-01SEP88

MANUAL STARTING

Follow steps listed below if battery power is TOO low to crank engine.

1. COLD ENGINE: Push throttle lever to the CHOKE position.
 - WARM ENGINE: Push throttle lever to the FAST position.
2. Put your foot on foot pad on top, left side of deck.
3. Pull starter handle until you feel resistance. Then pull fast and steady.
4. When engine starts, return rope slowly.
5. Pull throttle lever back to the HALF-THROTTLE position.



M61480 -UN-01SEP88

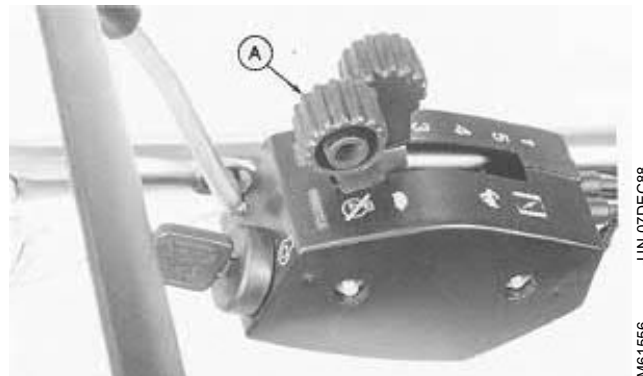
MX,OEBV,D -19-03SEP92

STOP ENGINE

⚠ CAUTION: Key for 14SE will NOT STOP the engine.

Pull throttle lever (A) to the STOP position.

Turn fuel shutoff knob to the CLOSED position.

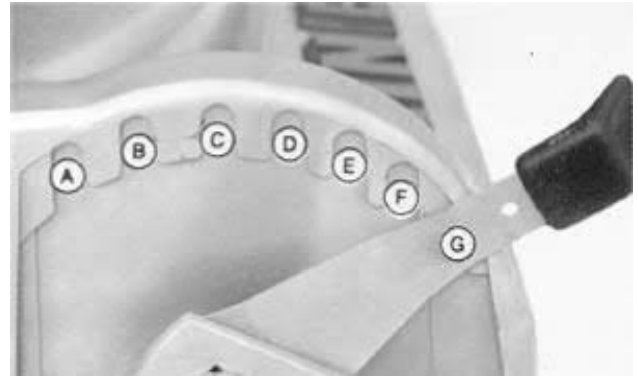
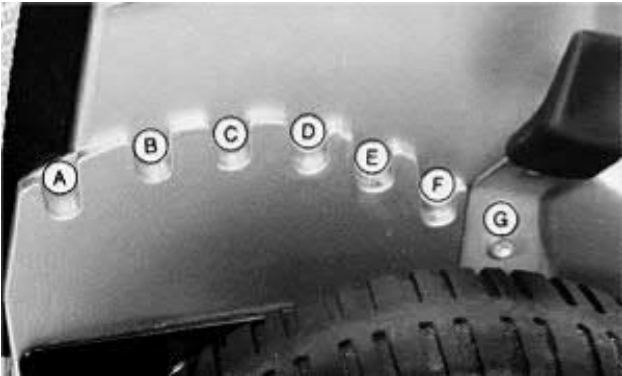


M61556 -UN-07DEC88

MX,OEBV,E -19-03SEP92

Operating Mower

ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT



A—1/2 in. (13 mm)
B—1 in. (25 mm)

C—1-1/2 in. (38 mm)
D—2 in. (50 mm)

E—2-1/2 in. (64 mm)
F—3 in. (75 mm)

G—3-1/2 in. (90 mm)

NOTE: The right side of the mower is shown.

CAUTION: Before you adjust cutting height, STOP ENGINE.

To help move rear wheel levers:

- Lift lower handlebar slightly with one hand to take some weight off wheel.
- Move lever to desired position with other hand.

IMPORTANT: Adjust all levers to the same height, except for **LOWEST** cutting height (A).

To use the **LOWEST** cutting height (A):

- Put front wheel levers in 1/2-in. (13-mm) notch: first rear notch.
- Put rear wheel levers in 1-in. (25-mm) notch: second rear notch.

MX,OMBV,B -19-03SEP92

ADJUST HANDLE HEIGHT

1. Remove knob and bolt from each side.
2. Move handle to desired height.
3. Move bracket so a square hole in bracket lines up with handle hole.
4. Install a bolt through same square hole on each side.
5. Install knobs.



MX,OMBV,C -19-03SEP92

BLADE OPERATION

CAUTION: Keep hands, feet and clothing away from blade when engine is running. If blade does not stop within 3 seconds after you release blade stop lever, see your John Deere dealer.

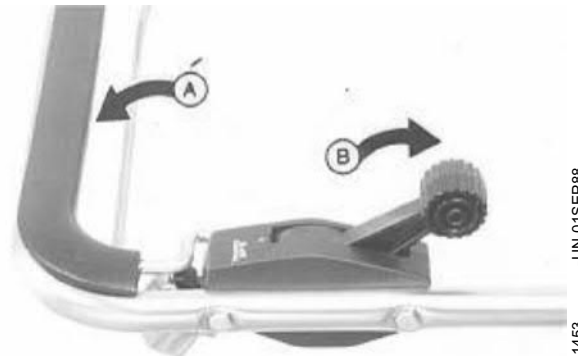
DO NOT ENGAGE blade in heavy grass or engine may STOP.

To ENGAGE blade:

- Pull and hold lever (A) against handle.
- Push lever (B) forward until it latches.

To DISENGAGE blade: Release lever (A).

CAUTION: DO NOT tape lever (A) to handle. If lever (B) does not latch, do not tape it or hold it in the LATCH position. See your John Deere dealer.



M61453 -UN-01SEP88

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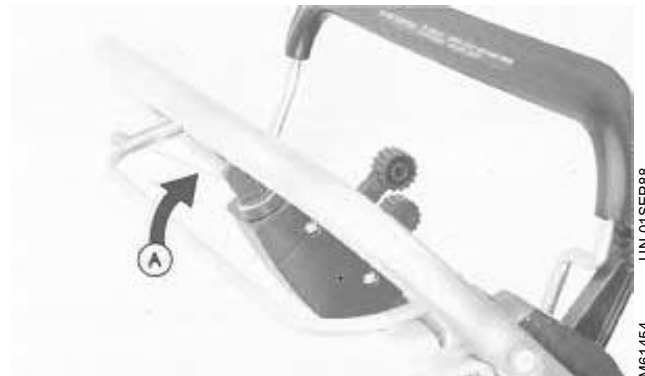
FORWARD TRAVEL

TO TRAVEL FORWARD: Pull lever (A) to handle and hold it there.

TO STOP FORWARD TRAVEL: Release lever.

Release lever before you turn.

NOTE: Rear wheels should make a clicking noise when you push mower forward. This means drive train is operating correctly.



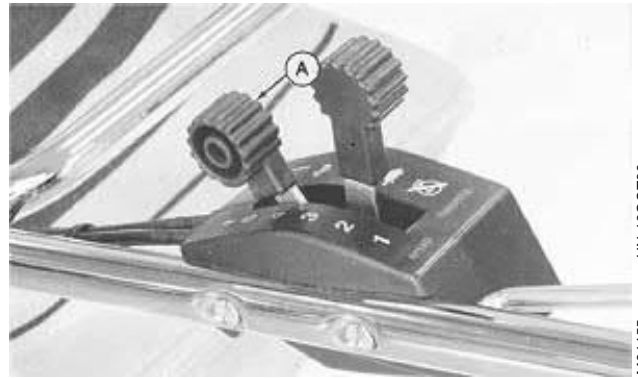
M61454 -UN-01SEP88

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TRAVEL SPEEDS

To change travel speed:

- STOP FORWARD TRAVEL. (See FORWARD TRAVEL in this section.)
- Move gear lever (A) to desired position.
- ENGAGE traction clutch lever.



M61455 -UN-13OCT88

GEAR	TRAVEL SPEED mph/(kmh)
1	1.2 (1.9)
2	1.9 (3.0)
3	2.4 (3.7)
4	2.9 (4.6)
5	4.1 (6.6)

MX,OMBV,F -19-03SEP92

TRANSPORT MOWER

IMPORTANT: To help prevent fuel from flowing into the engine when transporting mower:

- Turn fuel shutoff knob to the **CLOSED** position.

MX,OMBV,H -19-03SEP92

Mowing, Bagging, and Mulching

MOWING TIPS

When you mow an area for the first time, travel SLOW and cut HIGH so you can:

- Learn the terrain.
- Learn the best mowing pattern.
- Help prevent hitting objects hidden in the grass.

Mow grass only when it is dry: Wet grass may plug mower and leave a trail of grass clumps.

Mow grass often: Short grass clippings will decay quickly.

Mow at full throttle for best performance.

Use a travel speed that fits the conditions:

- Travel SLOW when you mow thick, tall grass.
- FAST travel may produce stripes or uneven cut: slow down.
- Travel at a MODERATE speed when you mow a thin stand of grass.

Mow often enough so you cut only top 1/3 of grass in one mowing. Cutting grass too short may kill grass and let weeds grow easily.

Before you make a turn, slow down. Short, fast turns may scuff the ground and pull grass out by roots.

Use the right blade. (See your John Deere dealer for the kind of blade that would best fit your mowing conditions.)

Aerate lawn to help stimulate soil organisms and root growth.

Trimming tips:

- Turn to the left around trees, bushes, etc.
- Drive slowly. Avoid hitting trees, bushes, etc.
- If ground slopes up to a tree or bush, you may have to approach the tree or bush straight-on to avoid scalping.

To avoid scalping:

- Pay attention to the way you drive: you can eliminate scalping.
- If mower scalps easily, cutting height may be too low for ground conditions—especially on lawns with many small mounds and ridges.
- Mow over ridges and through shallow ditches straight-on, not at an angle.

Keep blade sharp: Dull blade will tear grass; tips of grass will then turn brown.

Check lawn regularly for uneven cut. If cut is uneven:

- Mower may not be level. Adjust cutting height levers.
- Slow down before you make a turn.
- Sharpen blades often.

Use thatcher (available from your John Deere dealer) in late spring or summer to pull up dead grass and aerate ground.

After Mowing:

- STOP engine. Let it cool. This will help—to prevent starting a fire when you store the mower.
- CLOSE fuel shutoff valve.
- Remove and shake bag to remove all clippings. This will help to prevent deterioration of bag and starting a fire.
- Clean top of deck, engine, and chute with brush or compressed air. This will help to prevent buildup and starting a fire.
- Turn mower on its side with air cleaner up. Remove mulch plug. Spray under deck with water under pressure to remove corrosive lawn chemicals and buildup.
- Install bag. Put mower in safe storage.



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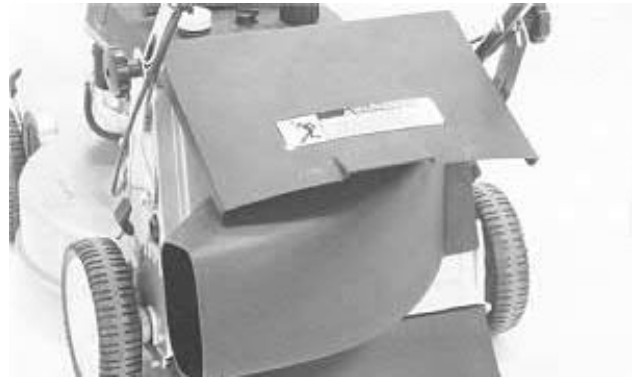
DISCHARGE CHUTE (OPTIONAL)

⚠ CAUTION: Do not operate mower unless grass bag, chute, or mulch plug (optional) is held in place by door.

Stop engine. Lift and hold door.

Remove grass bag.

Install chute. Lower door to hold chute in place.



MX,MBMBV,B -19-03SEP92

M61833 -UN-19OCT88

BAGGING TIPS

For best performance, the bagger needs good airflow.

To help increase airflow:

- Keep underside of deck and chute clean.
- Cut only top 1/3 of grass.
- Mow at full throttle.
- Clean bag often with water from a garden hose from outside to inside of bag. Let bag dry before using again.

IMPORTANT: Do not leave clippings in bag:

- Moisture may damage bag.
- Damp clippings are a fire hazard.

Check clippings in bag often. When bag is full:

- Clippings may blow to side or leave a trail.
- Top of bag will deflate.

MX,MBMFW,D -19-03SEP92

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