

**240, 260,
265 and 285
Lawn and Garden
Tractors**

**John Deere Horicon Works
OMM79648 Issue D9
(This manual replaces M79599)**

LITHO IN U.S.A.
ENGLISH

Introduction

THANK YOU for purchasing a John Deere product.

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 U.S. customary units and their metric equivalents.

RIGHT-HAND AND LEFT-HAND sides are determined by facing in the direction the implement will travel when going forward.

WRITE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS in the Specifications 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. If this manual is kept on the

machine, also 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.

THE TIRE MANUFACTURER'S warranty supplied with your machine may not apply outside the U.S.



M41174
-UN-06SEP88

Safety

RECOGNIZE SAFETY INFORMATION

This is the safety-alert symbol. When you see this symbol on your machine or in this manual, be alert to the potential for personal injury.

Follow recommended precautions and safe operating practices.



O53.ALERT -19-16JUN87

T81389 -JUN-07DEC88

UNDERSTAND SIGNAL WORDS

A signal word—DANGER, WARNING, or CAUTION—is used with the safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards.

Safety signs with signal word DANGER or WARNING are typically near specific hazards.

General precautions are listed on CAUTION safety signs. CAUTION also calls attention to safety messages in this manual.



O53.SIGNAL -19-07OCT85

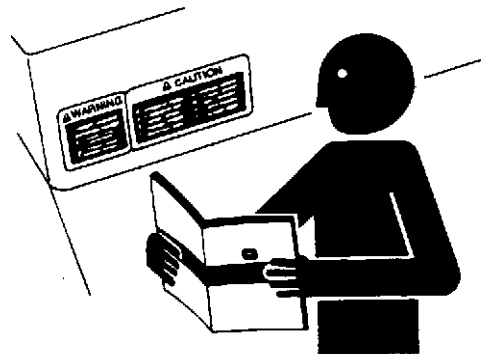
TS187 -19-30SEP88

FOLLOW SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Carefully read all safety messages in this manual and on your machine safety signs. Keep safety signs in good condition. Replace missing or damaged safety signs.

Learn how to operate the machine and how to use controls properly. Do not let anyone operate without instruction.

Keep your machine in proper working condition. Unauthorized modifications to the machine may impair the function and/or safety and affect machine life.



O53.READ -19-23APR87

TS201 -JUN-23AUG88

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OPEI CERTIFICATION

This OPEI Label on your mower indicates that this model has been certified by an independent laboratory for compliance with American National Standard B-71.1-1986, "Safety Specifications" for Power Lawn Mowers, Lawn and Garden Tractors, and Lawn Tractors.



-19-07OCT88

TS288

O53.CERT1 -19-27APR88

PROTECT CHILDREN

Keep children and others away when you operate machine.

BEFORE YOU BACK UP:

- Stop the PTO.
- Look behind tractor for children.

Do not let children operate tractor.

Never carry children. Do not let children ride on tractor, mower, or any attachment.



-JUN-06SEP88

IM41274

MX,SAAG,A -19-13MAR89

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AVOID TIPPING

Do not drive where machine could slip or tip.

Stay alert for holes, rock, and roots in the terrain, and other hidden hazards. Keep away from drop-offs.

Slow down before you make a sharp turn.

Use care when pulling loads or using heavy equipment.

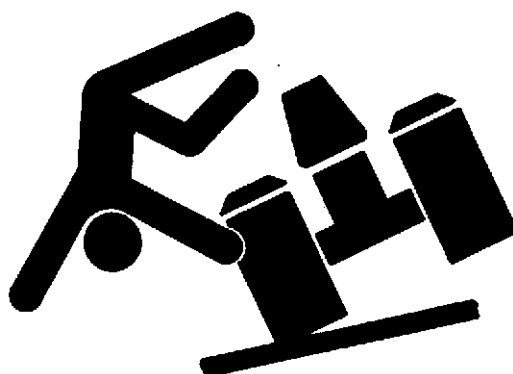
- Use only approved drawbar hitch points.
- Limit loads to those you can safely control.
- Use counterweights or wheel weights when suggested in this operator's manual.

Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on slopes and in sharp turns to prevent tipping or loss of control. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.

Do not stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill.

If machine stops going up hill:

- Stop the PTO.
- Back down slowly.



M41275 -JUN-06SEP88

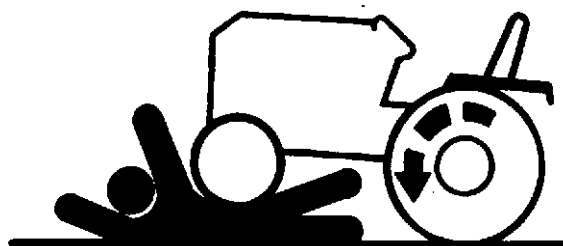
MX,SAAG,B -19-13MAR89

PARK TRACTOR SAFELY

To park tractor safely:

1. Move shift lever in "N" (neutral) position.
2. Disengage PTO's.
3. Lower equipment to the ground.
4. Engage park brake.
5. Stop the engine.
6. Remove key.

Before you leave the operator's seat, wait for engine and attachment parts to stop moving.



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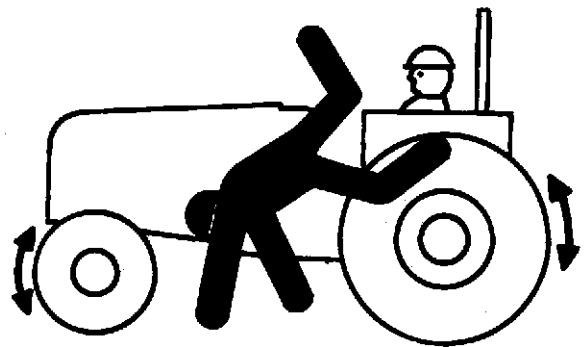
MX,SAAG,C -19-13MAR89

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KEEP RIDERS OFF MACHINE

Only allow the operator on the machine. Keep riders off.

Riders on machine are subject to injury such as being struck by foreign objects and being thrown off of the machine. Riders also obstruct the operator's view resulting in the machine being operated in an unsafe manner.



O53,RIDER -19-03MAY88

TS290 -JUN-23AUG88

HANDLE FUEL SAFELY—AVOID FIRES

Handle fuel with care: it is highly flammable. Do not refuel the machine while smoking or when near open flame or sparks.

Always stop engine before refueling machine. Fill fuel tank outdoors.

Prevent fires by keeping machine clean of accumulated trash, grease, and debris. Always clean up spilled fuel.



O53,FIRE1 -19-23APR87

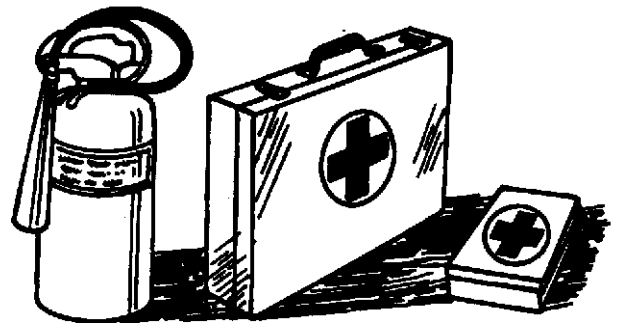
TS202 -JUN-23AUG88

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Be prepared if a fire starts.

Keep a first aid kit and fire extinguisher handy.

Keep emergency numbers for doctors, ambulance service, hospital, and fire department near your telephone.



O53,FIRE2 -19-03MAR88

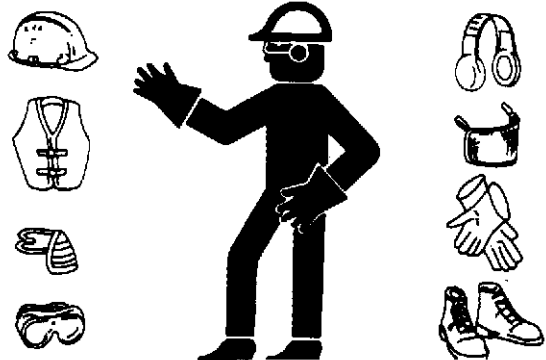
TS291 -JUN-23AUG88

WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate to the job.

Prolonged exposure to loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing.

Wear a suitable hearing protective device such as earmuffs or earplugs to protect against objectionable or uncomfortable loud noises.



O53,WEAR -19-23APR87

TS206 -JUN-23AUG88

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PRACTICE SAFE MAINTENANCE

Understand service procedure before doing work. Keep area clean and dry.

Never lubricate or service machine while it is moving. Keep hands, feet, and clothing from power-driven parts. Disengage all power and operate controls to relieve pressure. Lower equipment to the ground. Stop the engine. Remove the key. Allow machine to cool.

Securely support any machine elements that must be raised for service work.

Keep all parts in good condition and properly installed. Fix damage immediately. Replace worn or broken parts. Remove any buildup of grease, oil, or debris.

Disconnect battery ground cable (-) before making adjustments on electrical systems or welding on machine.



O53.SERV -19-21DEC87

T5218 -UN-23AUG88

READ SAFETY SIGNS CAREFULLY



M38614 -19-13MAR89

Top, Left-Side of Mower Deck



M38613 -19-13MAR89

Top, Right-Side of Mower Deck Near Chute

Carefully read and follow all safety signs.

Danger signs identify the most serious hazards.

Keep safety signs in good condition. Replace any missing or damaged safety signs. Signs are attached to machine near specific hazard areas.

MX,SAAG,D -19-13MAR89



M41143 -19-16MAR89

Safety Sign on Tractor in Front of Seat

MX,SAAG,E -19-13MAR89

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Safety Sign on Tractor Side Frame

MX,SAAG,F -19-13MAR89

M41144 -19-16MAR89



MX,SAAG,G -19-13MAR89

M61252 -19-11JAN89

Controls

- A—Clutch Pedal on 240 and 260 Tractors
- B—Throttle-Choke Lever
- C—Light Switch
- D—PTO Switch
- E—Ignition Key Switch
- F—Park Brake Lever
- G—Brake Pedal
- H—Mower Depth Control
- I—Tilt Steering Wheel Lever (260, 265, 285 Tractors Only)

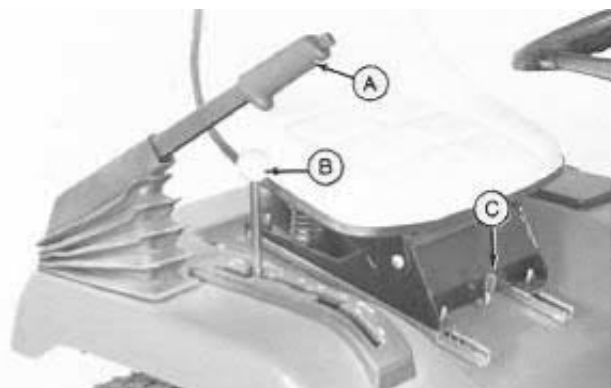


MX,CTAG,A -19-13MAR89

M41142 -UN-06SEP88

LIFT LEVER, TRANSMISSION SHIFT LEVER, AND SEAT ADJUSTING LEVER

- A—Lift Lever
- B—Transmission Shift Lever
- C—Seat Adjusting Lever



MX,CTAG,B -19-13MAR89

M41145 -UN-06SEP88

LIFT ASSIST SPRING CRANK

- A—Lift Assist Spring Crank



MX,CTAG,C -19-13MAR89

M41146 -UN-06SEP88

TOW DISCONNECT LEVER (265 AND 285 TRACTORS)

A—Tow Disconnect Lever



MX,CTAG,D -19-13MAR89

M41147 -JUN-06SEP88

FUEL SHUTOFF VALVE*

*All tractors except 285 Fuel-Injected Tractor

A—Fuel Shutoff Valve

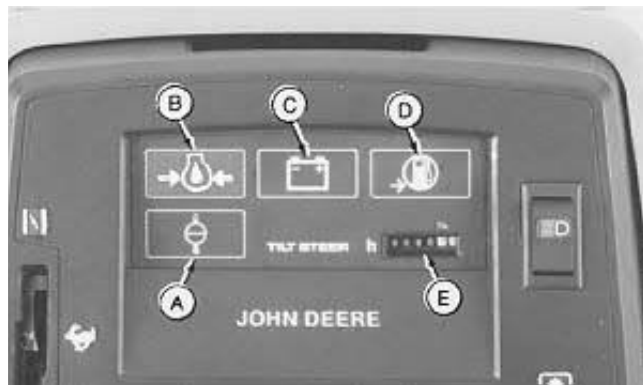


MX,CTAG,E -19-13MAR89

M41148 -JUN-06SEP88

INDICATOR LIGHTS AND HOUR METER

- A—Coolant Temperature (285 Tractor Only)
- B—Engine Oil Pressure (260, 265, and 285 only)
- C—Battery Discharge
- D—Low Fuel
- E—Hour Meter (Standard on 260, 265, 285; Optional on 240)



MX,CTAG,F -19-13MAR89

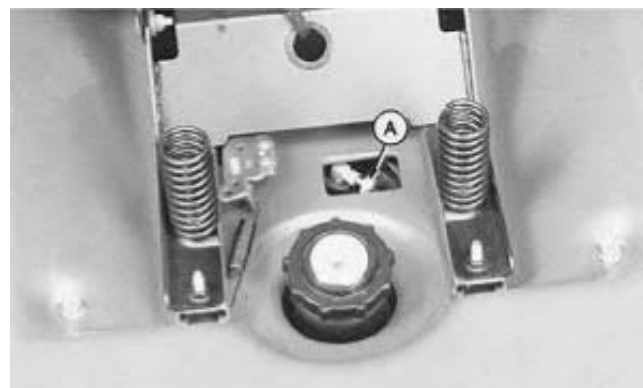
M41149 -JUN-06SEP88

Operating the Engine

STARTING THE ENGINE

N CAUTION: Start engine **ONLY** outdoors or in a well-ventilated place. Exhaust fumes are dangerous.

1. Lift seat.
2. On all tractors except 285 Fuel-Injected Tractor, turn knob counterclockwise to open fuel shut-off valve (A). Lower seat.
3. Move lever (B) left to move seat forward or rearward for most comfortable position. Release lever to lock seat in position.



M41150 -UN-06SEP88



M41252 -UN-06SEP88

MX,OEAG,A -19-13MAR89

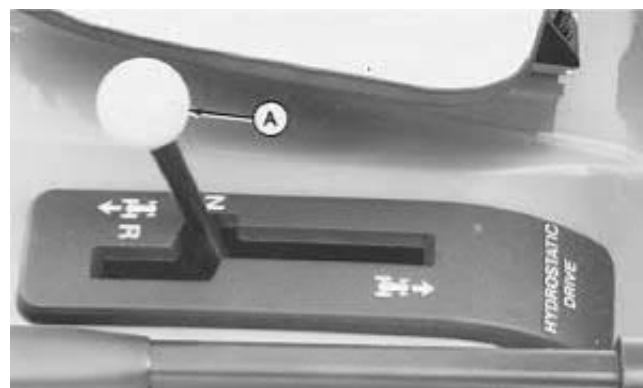
4. Move transmission shift lever to N (neutral) position.

HYDROSTATIC TRACTOR: Push brake pedal all the way down to return transmission shift lever (A) to N (neutral) position.

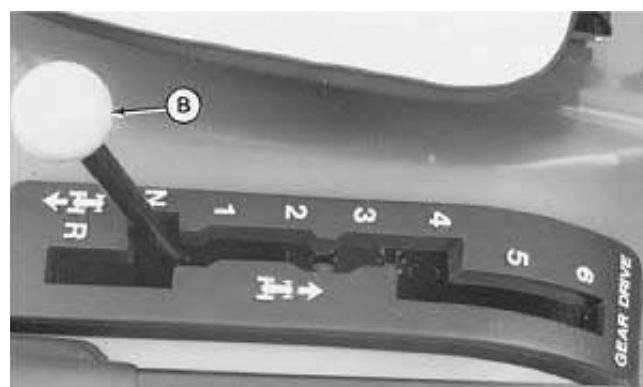
GEAR TRANSMISSION TRACTOR:

IMPORTANT: Always depress clutch pedal before moving transmission shift lever to prevent damaging shift linkage. The shift lever cannot be moved until clutch pedal is depressed.

Depress clutch pedal and move transmission shift lever (B) to N (neutral) position.



M41182 -UN-06SEP88



M41181 -UN-06SEP88

MX,OEAG,B -19-13MAR89



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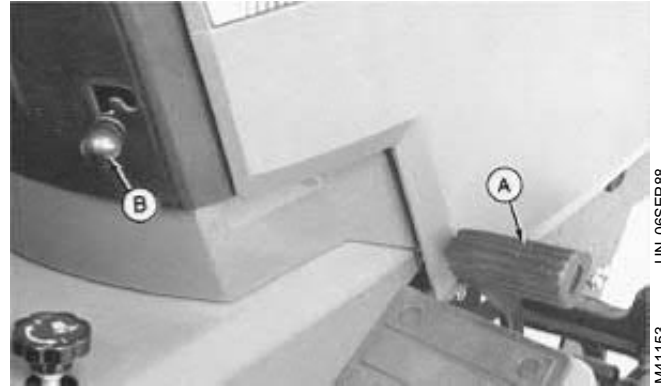
to download the complete manual.

Thank you so much for reading

Operating the Engine

NOTE: You cannot move hydrostatic control lever out of N position when park brake is locked.

5. Lock the park brake.
 - a. Move park brake knob (B) to lower slot shown.
 - b. Push down clutch (not shown) and brake pedal (A) on 240 and 260 Tractors. Push down brake pedal on 265 and 285 Tractors.
 - c. Release pedal(s). Pedal(s) should stay down.



MX,OEAG,C -19-13MAR89

M41153 -JUN-06SEP88

NOTE: Your tractor has a neutral start safety switch. Engine will not start unless:

- PTO switch is OFF.
- Transmission shift lever is in N (neutral) position.
- Brake pedal is down all the way on a hydrostatic tractor.

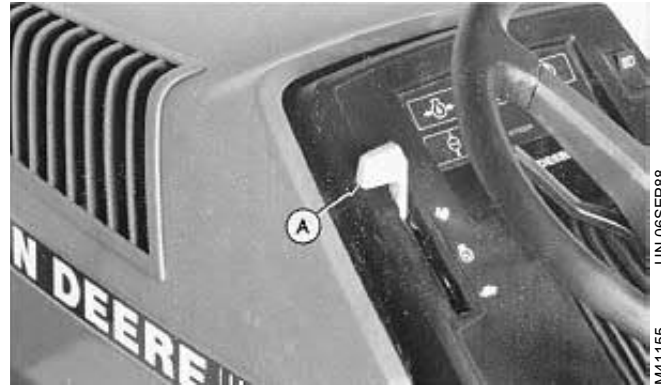
6. Move PTO switch lever (A) down to OFF position.



MX,OEAG,D -19-13MAR89

M41154 -JUN-06SEP88

7. Move throttle lever (A) to choke position if engine is cold. Put throttle at idle to half-speed position if engine is warm.



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