

# **314F Walk-Behind Tiller**

(Serial No. 010001 – )

## **OPERATOR'S MANUAL**

**John Deere  
Worldwide Commercial and  
Consumer Equipment Division  
OMM134181 H8**

North American Version  
Litho in U.S.A  
English

# INTRODUCTION

**THANK YOU** for purchasing a John Deere product.

Read this manual and your attachment manuals thoroughly. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or equipment damage.



**WARNING:** The Engine Exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

CALIFORNIA Proposition 65 Warning

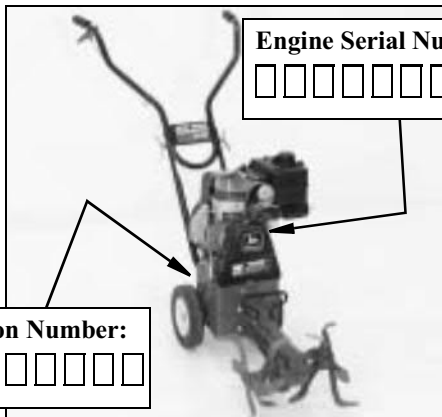
This manual should be considered a permanent part of your machine and should remain with the machine when you sell it.

Measurements in this manual are metric units and their U.S. customary equivalents. RIGHT-HAND and LEFT-HAND sides are determined by facing in the direction the machine will travel when going forward. When you see a broken line arrow (----->) it indicates the part it is pointing to is hidden.

Record identification numbers below. Be sure to record all the numbers to help in tracing the machine if it is stolen. You also need to give these numbers to your dealer when you order parts.

**Date of Purchase:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Dealer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Engine Serial Number:**  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

**Product Identification Number:**  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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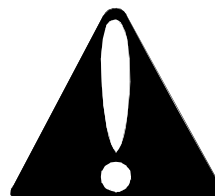
# SAFETY SIGNS

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## Safety-Alert Symbol

Read and recognize safety information. Be alert to the potential for personal injury when you see this safety-alert symbol.

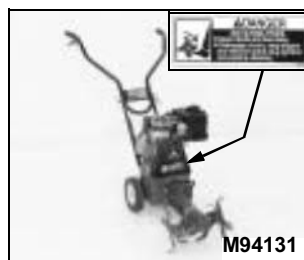
On your machine safety labels, the words DANGER, WARNING, and CAUTION are used with this safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards. In this manual, the word CAUTION and this symbol call attention to safety messages.



## Machine Safety Labels

### DANGER - ROTATING TINES

- Keep hands and feet away
- Disengage clutch, stop engine and remove spark plug ignition wire before cleaning.



## SAFETY SIGNS

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### WARNING - TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURY

- Read operator's manual
- Know location and function of all controls
- Keep all safety devices and shields in place and working
- Never allow children or uninstructed adults to operate tiller
- Stop engine and remove ignition wire before cleaning tines or repairing
- Keep bystanders away from tiller
- Keep away from rotating parts
- Use extreme caution when reversing or pulling toward you



### WARNING - HOT SURFACE

Place free hand on handlebars when starting engine



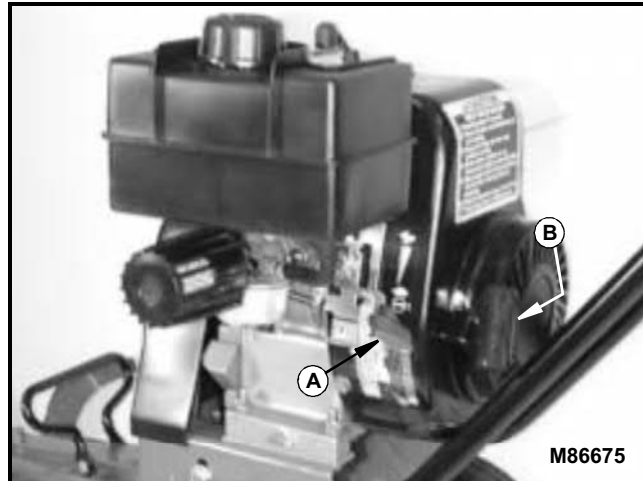
This OPEI label on your tiller indicates that this model has been certified by an independent laboratory for compliance with American National Standard B-71.8-1996, "Safety Specifications" for Tillers.



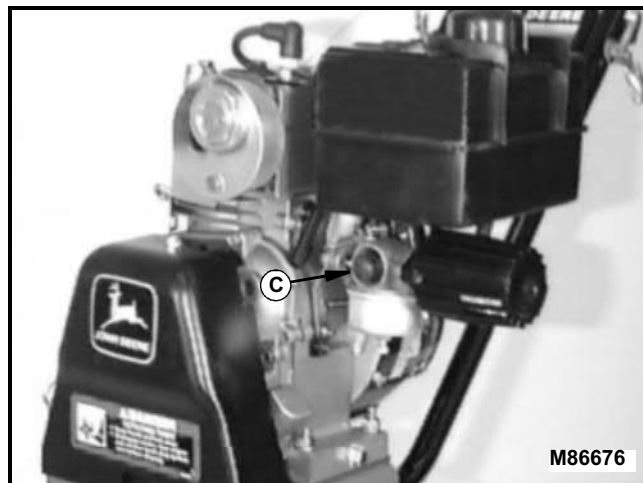
# CONTROLS

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## Engine Controls



- A - Throttle Lever ..... Controls engine speed / RPM
- B - Starter Handle ..... Pull to start engine



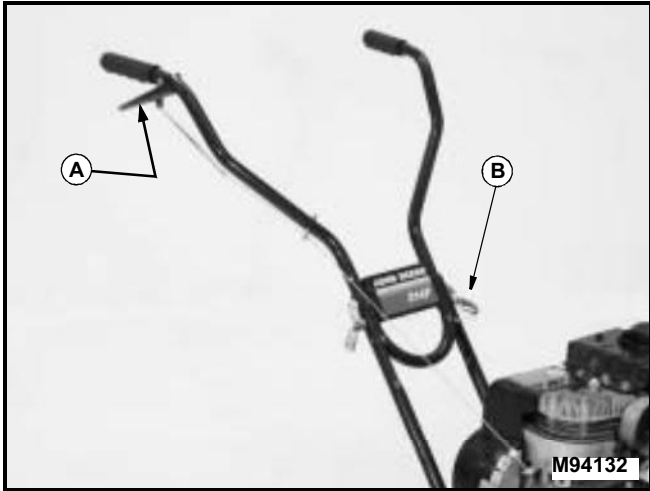
- C - Primer ..... Forces Fuel into carburetor

# CONTROLS

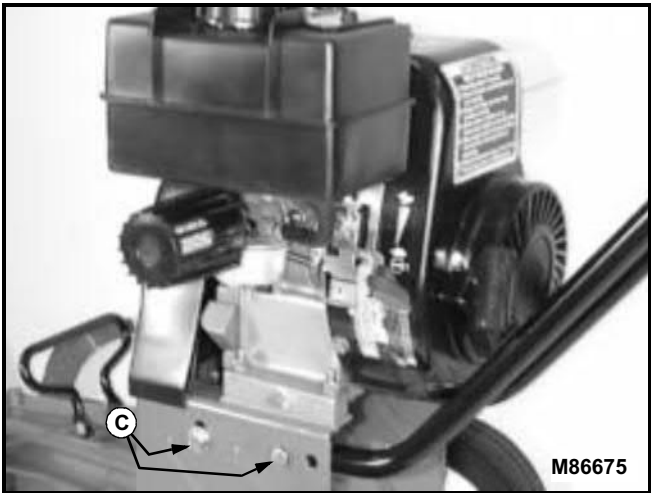
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## Handle Controls



- A - Tine Engagement Lever.....Engages tiller tines
- B - Handlebar Wingnuts ..... Locks handlebars in position  
(Also controls handlebar height)



- C - Handlebar Hardware ..... Controls handlebar height

# OPERATING

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## SAFETY



### Operate Safely

- Inspect machine before you operate. Be sure hardware is tight. Repair or replace damaged, badly worn, or missing parts. Be sure all safety protective devices are in good condition and fastened in place. Make any necessary adjustments before you operate.
- Clear work area of objects that might be hit. Keep people and pets out of the work area. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- If you hit an object, stop the machine and inspect it. Make repairs before you operate. Keep machine properly maintained and in good working order.
- DO NOT leave machine unattended when it is running.
- Only operate during daylight or with good artificial light.
- Be sure of footing. Be especially careful when you pull machine backwards with the engine running.
- Till across a hill - not up and down. Be careful when you change direction on a slope. DO NOT till excessively steep slopes.
- Keep a firm hold on the machine handle.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones while operating the machine. Safe operation requires your full attention.

## OPERATING

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### **Rotating Tines are Dangerous - Protect Children and Prevent Accidents**

#### PROTECT CHILDREN:

- Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them. Stay alert to the presence of children.
- Keep children in the house when you are operating the machine.
- Turn machine off if a child enters the area.
- Use extra care when you come to blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may block your vision.
- DO NOT let children or an untrained person operate the machine.

#### HELP PREVENT SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS:

- Be alert at all times, people especially children can move quickly into the area before you know it.
- Stop the tines when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads.
- Shut off tiller when you are not tilling.
- Keep hands, feet, and clothing away from rotating tines.

### **Wear Appropriate Clothing**

- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate for the job.
- Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing, wear a suitable protective device such as earplugs.
- DO NOT operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial footwear.



# OPERATING

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## DAILY OPERATING CHECKLIST

- ✓ Check fuel level
- ✓ Check engine oil
- ✓ Check hardware
- ✓ Inspect tiller

### Using Throttle Lever

Throttle controls engine speed as well as the engine shut-off.

Change engine speed:

- To increase speed, move throttle lever (A) up toward FAST (🚀).
- To decrease speed, move throttle lever down toward SLOW (🐢).
- To stop engine, move throttle lever down to the "STOP" position.



Throttle lever:

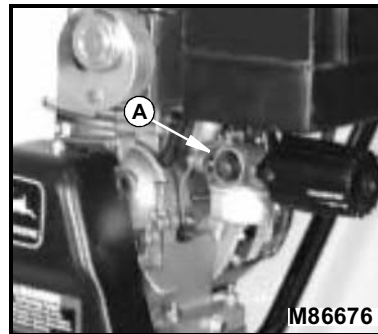
- Set throttle lever at "FAST" (🚀) position when starting engine.
- In order to become familiar with the tiller, when first attempting to operate it, use the lowest speed that will still give sufficient power to operate.
- After you have become familiar with the tiller increase throttle to fast position for best tilling results.

## OPERATING

### Using Primer

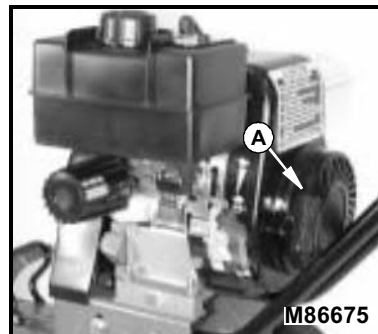
Primer button:

- For cold engines, push button two or three times.
- For warm engines, push button once.



### Using Rewind Starter

1. Pull starter handle (A) until you feel resistance:
2. Pull handle fast and steady. Do not let handle snap back.
3. Repeat until engine starts.



### Stopping

**IMPORTANT:** If unit vibrates abnormally, disengage tiller and stop engine at once. Abnormal vibration is a warning of trouble. Repair any damage before restarting unit.

1. Release tiller engagement lever to stop tiller motion.
2. Move throttle lever (A) to idle, then to the "STOP" position.



# OPERATING

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## Using Tine Engagement Lever

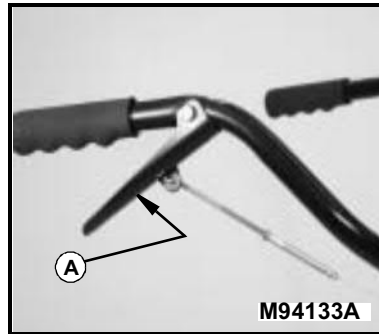


**CAUTION:** Engaging lever with engine running causes tines to rotate. Be sure tiller is in position to till and that you have a firm grip on handlebars before engaging clutch.

**NOTE:** Depending on tiller serial number, tine engagement cable may be different than the one pictured.

To engage tiller tines, squeeze tine engagement lever (A):

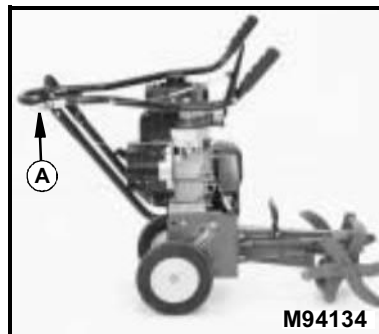
- This causes tines to rotate in a forward direction.
- Tines break up soil and pull tiller forward.



## Using Fold-Down Handlebars

This tiller is equipped with fold-down handlebars.

1. Loosen wingnuts (A) and fold handlebars forward. This position is designed for storing the unit.



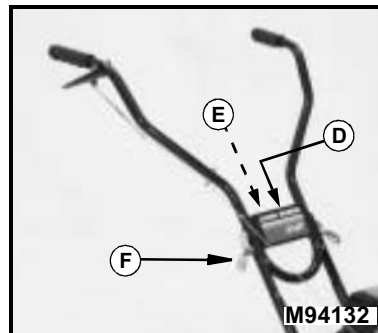
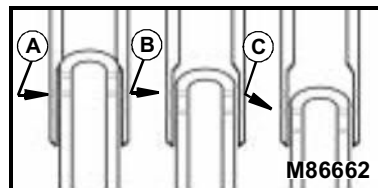
# OPERATING

## Adjusting Handlebars

**IMPORTANT:** Anytime the handlebar length or height is changed, the tiller drive clutch must also be adjusted. (See Adjusting Tine Engagement Clutch in the Service section).

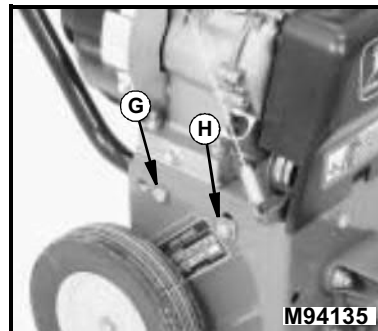
### Change handlebar length:

- Handlebars can be adjusted to three different lengths.
- Align holes in upper handlebars with holes in lower handlebars to positions (A, B, or C).
- Install handlebar bracket (D) and align mounting holes.
- Install two “J” bolts (E) from the back side.
- Install and tighten wingnuts (F).



### Change handlebar height:

- Loosen handlebar attaching hardware (G and H). Hardware (H) is in an adjusting slot.
- Adjust handlebar height as desired. Handlebars should be straight and even.
- Tighten handlebar attaching hardware.



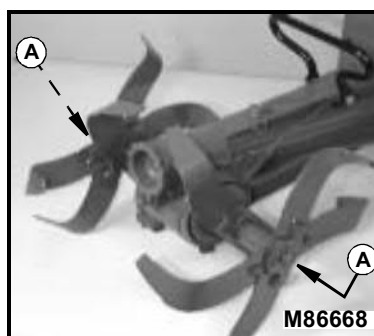
## OPERATING

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### Adjusting Tine Width

The maximum tine width is 36 cm (14 in.). This tine width can be changed. For example, the outer most tines can be removed. This will make the tiller width approximately 25 cm (10 in.)

If you choose to change your tine width, make sure the other tines are properly seated on the shafts and that cap screws (A) are tight.



### Tilling Tips



**CAUTION:** After striking a foreign object, STOP tiller, remove wire from spark plug, thoroughly inspect tiller for damage and repair damage before restarting and operating tiller.

- To control tilling depth, vary pressure on handlebar of unit according to soil conditions. Lifting tills more deeply and propels unit faster. Pushing down provides shallower depth and slower forward motion.



**CAUTION:** Grip handlebar securely with both hands to control tiller in case it strikes a rock, large stone, root or other obstruction while tilling.

- When reaching the end of a row, release clutch lever, press down and pull back on handlebars and lift tines from soil, and move tiller to start of next row.



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## OPERATING

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- Plan your garden properly to make the best use of your John Deere tiller. Leave enough room for your tiller between rows and cultivate every few weeks to improve your garden.
- A layer of grass clippings or leaves placed around plants discourages weed growth and helps to hold moisture.
- At the end of growing season, till crop residue into soil for mulch. As crop residue decomposes it acts as fertilizer.



**CAUTION:** Release tine engagement lever, stop engine and remove wire from spark plug before attempting to remove debris from tine by hand.

- Don't let crop residue, grass, vines, etc. wind up in tines until they interfere with tine action.

**NOTE:** • **DO NOT till wet soil, it produces hard lumps. Tilling soil that is too dry results in powdered soil. When this powdered soil becomes wet and then dries it will harden like brick.**

• **This product is equipped with an internal combustion engine. Do not use on or near any unimproved, forest covered or brush covered land unless the exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local, state or federal laws. A spark arrester, if it is used, must be maintained in effective working order by the operator. See your John Deere or engine manufacturer's service center.**

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