

JOHN DEERE
WORLDWIDE COMMERCIAL & CONSUMER
EQUIPMENT DIVISION

Sabre Yard and Garden Tractors
1948HV, 2148HV, 2354HV and 2554HV

OMM139973 B2

OPERATOR'S MANUAL



JOHN DEERE

North American Version
Litho in U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

Thank You for Purchasing a Scotts Product

We appreciate having you as a customer and wish you many years of safe and satisfied use of your machine.

Using Your Operator's Manual

This manual is an important part of your machine and should remain with the machine when you sell it.

Reading your operator's manual will help you and others avoid personal injury or damage to the machine. Information given in this manual will provide the operator with the safest and most effective use of the machine. Knowing how to operate this machine safely and correctly will allow you to train others who may operate this machine.

If you have an attachment, use the safety and operating information in the attachment operator's manual along with the machine operator's manual to operate the attachment safely and correctly.

This manual and safety signs on your machine may also be available in other languages (see your John Deere dealer to order).

Sections in your operator's manual are placed in a specific order to help you understand all the safety messages and learn the controls so you can operate this machine safely. You can also use this manual to answer any specific operating or servicing questions. A convenient index located at the end of this book will help you to find needed information quickly.

The machine shown in this manual may differ slightly from your machine, but will be similar enough to help you understand our instructions.

Right and left sides are determined by facing in the direction the machine will travel when going forward. When you see a broken line (-----), the item referred to is hidden from view.

Before delivering this machine, your dealer performed a predelivery inspection to ensure best performance.

Special Messages

Your manual contains special messages to bring attention to potential safety concerns, machine damage as well as helpful operating and servicing information. Please read all the information carefully to avoid injury and machine damage.



CAUTION: Avoid injury! This symbol and text highlight potential hazards or death to the operator or bystanders that may occur if the hazards or procedures are ignored.

IMPORTANT: Avoid damage! This text is used to tell the operator of actions or conditions that might result in damage to the machine.

NOTE: General information is given throughout the manual that may help the operator in the operation or service of the machine.

CALIFORNIA Proposition 65 Warning



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

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Record Identification Numbers

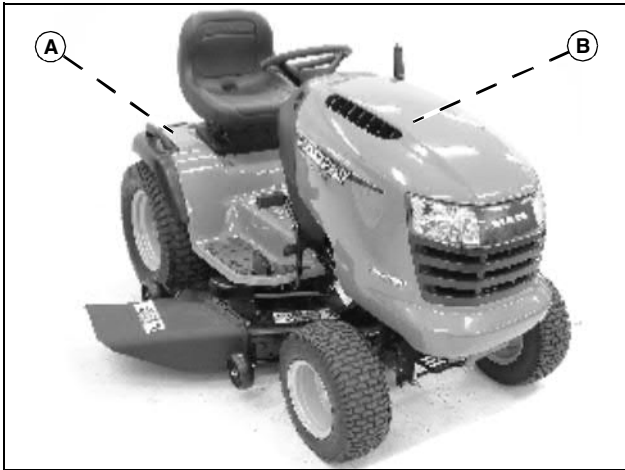
Sabre Yard & Garden Tractors

1948HV, 2148HV & 2354HV PIN (010001 -)

2554HV PIN (025001 -)

When contacting an Authorized Service Center for information, always provide product model and serial number.

Locate identification number for machine and for engine.
Record information in spaces provided below.



MX13500

DATE OF PURCHASE:

DEALER NAME:

DEALER PHONE:

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (A):

ENGINE SERIAL NUMBER (B):

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Safety	1
Operating	9
Replacement Parts	20
Service Interval Chart.....	22
Service Lubrication	23
Service Engine	24
Service Transmission.....	29
Service Mower.....	30
Service Electrical.....	34
Service Miscellaneous.....	37
Troubleshooting	38
Storing Machine.....	42
Assembly	44
Specifications	46
Warranty	50
Index.....	53

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John Deere Worldwide Commercial and Consumer Equipment Division

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Previous Editions

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OMM139973 B2 - English

SAFETY

Understanding Machine Safety Labels



Safety-Alert Symbol

The machine safety labels shown in this section are placed in important areas on your machine to draw attention to potential safety hazards.

On your machine safety labels, the words DANGER, WARNING, and CAUTION are used with this safety-alert symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards.

The operator's manual also explains any potential safety hazards whenever necessary in special safety messages that are identified with the word, CAUTION, and the safety-alert symbol.

DANGER

Rotating Blade



MX13500

- Do not put hands or feet under or into mower when engine is running.

THROWN OBJECTS

- Before mowing, clear area of objects that may be thrown by blade.
- Do not operate mower without discharge chute or entire

grass catcher in place.

DANGER

ROTATING BLADES CUT OFF ARMS AND LEGS



M47707/MX13500

- Do not mow when children or others are around
- Do not mow in reverse
- Look down and behind before and while backing
- Never carry children even with blades off

WARNING: AVOID SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH

- Drive up and down slopes, not across
- Avoid sudden turns
- If machine stops going uphill, stop blade and back down slowly
- Keep safety devices (guards, shields, and switches) in place and working
- Read operator's manual
- When leaving machine:
 - Stop engine
 - Set park brake
 - Remove key

SAFETY

WARNING: LOADED SPRING



M47589/M88552/MX13500

Lock lift lever forward before changing attachments.

DANGER

ROTATING BLADE



MX13500

Picture Note: Located on left side of mower

Do not put hands or feet under or into mower when engine is running.

DANGER/POISON



MX13500

Picture Note: Located on Battery

- Shield eyes. Explosive gases can cause blindness or injury.
- No sparks, flames, smoking
- Sulfuric acid can cause blindness or severe burns
- Flush eyes immediately with water. Get medical help fast.
- Maintenance-free.
- Keep out of the reach of children. Do not tip. Do not open battery!

CAUTION



M138932/MX13481

To avoid injury from spring loaded tension arm, read operator's manual before releasing.

SAFETY

Emission Control System Certification Label

NOTE: Tampering with emission controls and components by unauthorized personnel may result in severe fines or penalties. Emission controls and components can only be adjusted by EPA and/or CARB authorized service centers. Contact John Deere Commercial and Consumer Equipment Retailer concerning emission controls and component questions.

The presence of an emissions label signifies that the engine has been certified with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The emissions warranty applies only to those engines marketed by John Deere that have been certified by the EPA and/or CARB; and used in the United States and Canada in off-road mobile equipment.

Emission Compliance Period

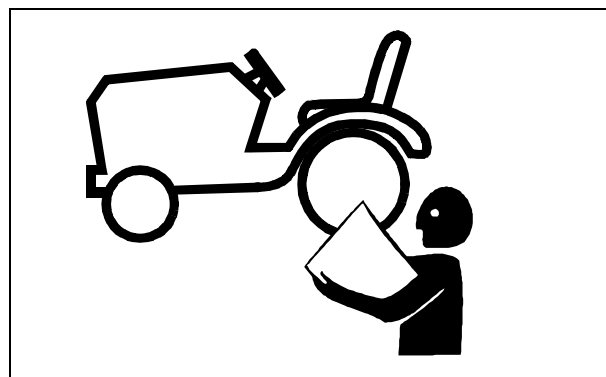
If engine has emission compliance category listed on the emission control system certification or air index label, this indicates the number of operating hours for which the engine has been certified to meet EPA and/or CARB emission requirements. The following table provides the engine compliance period in hours associated with the category found on the certification label.

Agency	Category	Hours
EPA	C	250
EPA	B	500
EPA	A	1000
CARB	Moderate	125
CARB	Intermediate	250
CARB	Extended	500

Certification Label

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

Operating Safely



- Read, understand and follow all instructions in the manual, on the machine and on the safety video before starting.
- Only allow responsible adults, who are familiar with the instructions to operate the machine.
- Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the machine before starting.
- Inspect machine before you operate. Be sure hardware is tight. Repair or replace damaged, badly worn, or missing parts. Be sure guards and shields are in good condition and fastened in place. Make any necessary adjustments before you operate.
- Do not operate mower without discharge chute or entire grass catcher in place.
- Check brake action before you operate. Adjust or service brakes as necessary.
- 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 and attachments properly maintained and in good working order.
- Be aware of the mower discharge direction and make sure that no one is in the path of the discharge direction.
- Do not leave machine unattended when it is running.
- Only operate during daylight or with good artificial light.
- Be careful of traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- Older adults are involved in a large percentage of riding mower accidents involving injury. These operators should evaluate their ability to operate a mower safely enough to protect the operator and others from serious injury.

SAFETY

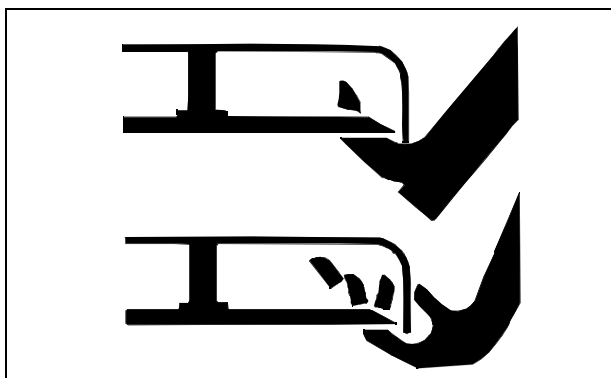
Using a Spark Arrestor

The engine in this machine is not equipped with a spark arrestor muffler. It is a violation of California Public Resource Code Section 4442 to use or operate this engine on or near any forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrestor meeting any applicable local or state laws. Other states or federal areas may have similar laws.

A spark arrestor for your machine may be available from your John Deere dealer. An installed spark arrestor must be maintained in good working order by the operator.

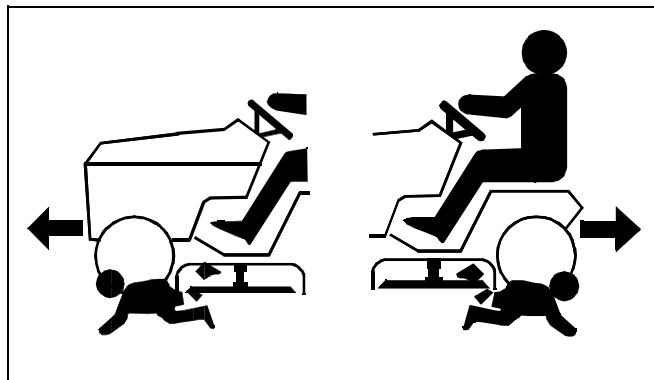
Rotating Blades are Dangerous

HELP PREVENT SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS:



- Rotating blades can cut off arms and legs, and throw objects. Failure to observe safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.
- Keep hands, feet and clothing away from mower deck when engine is running.
- Be alert at all times, drive forward carefully. People, especially children can move quickly into the mowing area before you know it.
- Before backing up, stop mower blades or attachments and look down and behind the machine carefully, especially for children.
- Do not mow in reverse.
- Shut off blades when you are not mowing.
- Do not operate machine if you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Park machine safely before inspecting, removing, or unplugging mower or bagger.

PROTECT CHILDREN:



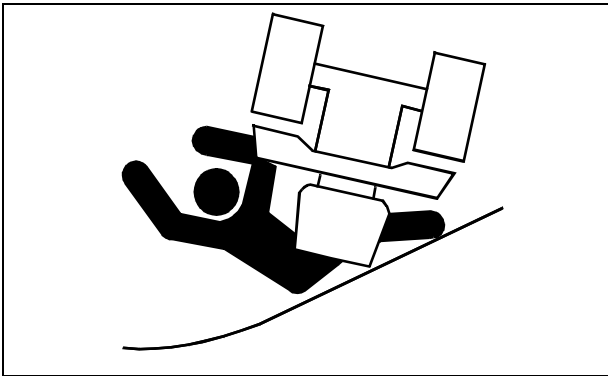
- Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of another responsible adult.
- Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them. Children are attracted to mowing activity, stay alert to the presence of children.
- Keep children indoors when you are mowing. Turn the machine off if a child enters the mowing 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.
- Do not carry or let children ride on any attachment or machine even with the blades off. Do not tow children in a cart or trailer.

Parking Safely

- Stop machine on a level surface, not on a slope.
- Disengage mower blades.
- Lower attachments to the ground.
- Lock park brake.
- Stop engine.
- Remove key.
- Before leaving operator's seat, wait for engine and all moving parts to stop.

SAFETY

Avoid Tipping



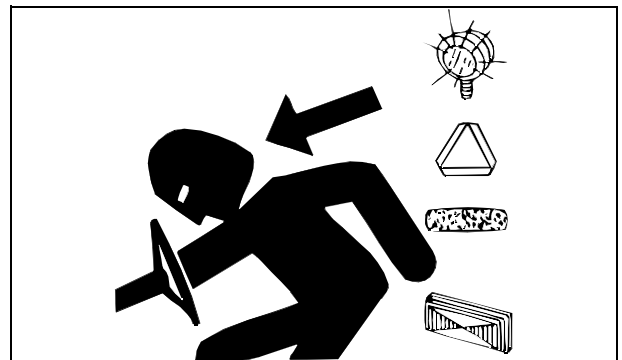
- Slopes are a major factor related to loss-of-control and tip-over accidents, which can result in severe injury or death. All slopes require extra caution. If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, do not mow it.
- Keep all movement on slopes slow and gradual. Do not make sudden changes in speed or direction.
- Slow down before you make a sharp turn or operate on a slope. Choose a slow speed so that you will not have to stop while on the slope.
- Do not turn on slopes unless necessary. Turn slowly and turn downhill. Do not coast downhill.
- Stay alert for holes and other hidden hazards in the terrain. Uneven terrain could overturn the machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Keep away from drop-offs, ditches and embankments.
- Use extra care with grass catchers or other attachments. These can change the stability of the machine. Do not use grass catcher on steep slopes.
- Use recommended weights for added stability when operating on slopes or using front or rear mounted attachments. Remove weights when not required.
- Drive up and down a hill - not across.
- Do not stop when going up hill or down hill. If machine stops going up hill, disengage mower blades and back down slowly.
- Mowing when grass is wet can cause reduced traction and sliding.
- Do not try to stabilize the machine by putting your foot on the ground.

Keep Riders Off



- Only allow the operator on the machine. Keep riders off.
- Riders on the machine or attachment may be struck by foreign objects or thrown off the machine causing serious injury.
- Riders obstruct the operator's view resulting in the machine being operated in an unsafe manner.

Driving Safely on Public Roads

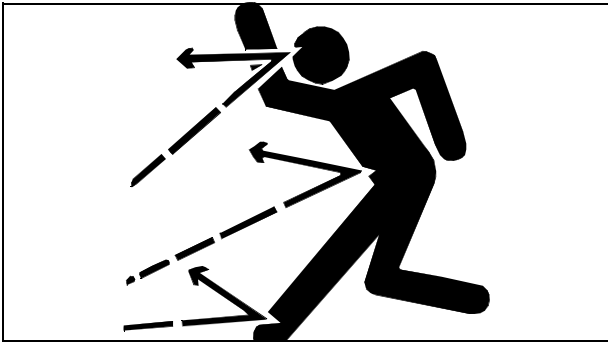


Avoid personal injury or death resulting from a collision with another vehicle on public roads:

- Use safety lights and devices. Slow moving machines when driven on public roads are hard to see, especially at night.
- Whenever driving on public roads, use flashing warning lights and turn signals according to local regulations. Extra flashing warning lights may need to be installed.

SAFETY

Checking Mowing Area



- Clear mowing area of objects that might be thrown. Keep people and pets out of mowing area.
- Low-hanging branches and similar obstacles can injure the operator or interfere with mowing operation. Before mowing, identify potential obstacles such as low-hanging branches, and trim or remove those obstacles.
- Study mowing area. Set up a safe mowing pattern. Do not mow where traction or stability is doubtful.
- Test drive area with mower lowered but not running. Slow down when you travel over rough ground.

Towing Loads Safely

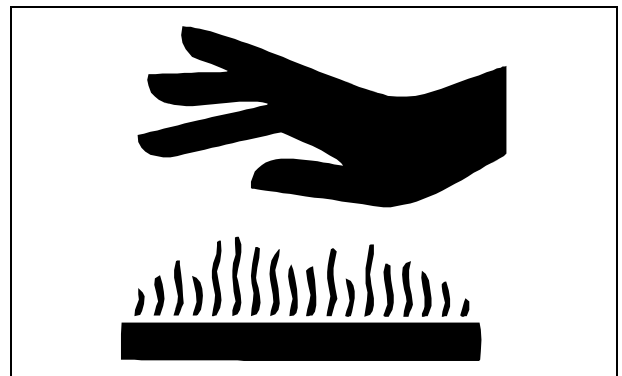
- Limit loads to those you can safely control. Use only approved hitches when pulling loads or using heavy equipment. Use counterweights or wheel weights as required in this manual or your attachment manual.
- Do not tow children in a cart or trailer.
- Travel slowly and allow extra distance to stop.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for weight limits for towed equipment and towing on slopes.
- Tow only with a machine that has a hitch designed for towing. Do not attach towed equipment except at the hitch point.
- On slopes, the weight of towed equipment may cause loss of traction and loss of control.

Wear Appropriate Clothing



- Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when operating the mower.
- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment appropriate for the job.
- Wear a suitable protective device such as earplugs. Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing.
- Do not wear radio or music headphones. Safe service and operation requires your full attention.

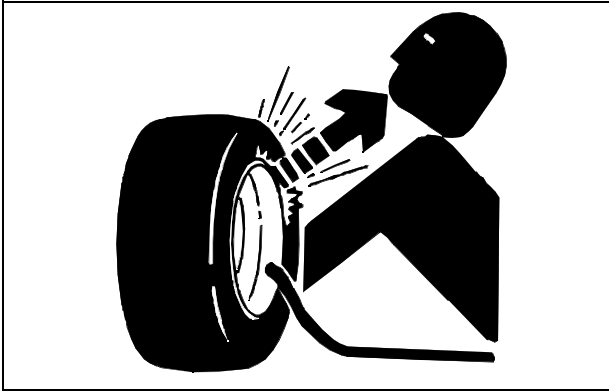
Prevent Fires



- Remove grass and debris from engine compartment and muffler area, before and after operating machine, especially after mowing or mulching in dry conditions.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep engine and engine compartment free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.
- Allow engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- Never remove fuel cap, or add fuel with engine running or hot. Allow engine to cool for several minutes.
- Never store equipment with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark.

SAFETY

Tire Safety

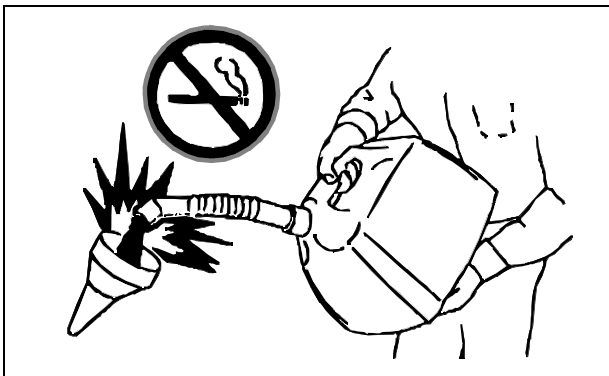


Explosive separation of a tire and rim parts can cause serious injury or death:

- Do not attempt to mount a tire without the proper equipment and experience to perform the job.
- Always maintain the correct tire pressure. Do not inflate the tires above the recommended pressure. Never weld or heat a wheel and tire assembly. The heat can cause an increase in air pressure resulting in a tire explosion. Welding can structurally weaken or deform the wheel.
- When inflating tires, use a clip-on chuck and extension hose long enough to allow you to stand to one side and NOT in front of or over the tire assembly.
- Check tires for low pressure, cuts, bubbles, damaged rims or missing lug bolts and nuts.

Handling Fuel Safely

Fuel and fuel vapors are highly flammable:



- Do not refuel machine while you smoke, when machine is near an open flame or sparks, or when engine is running. stop engine and allow to cool before filling.
- Never remove the fuel cap or add fuel with the engine

running.

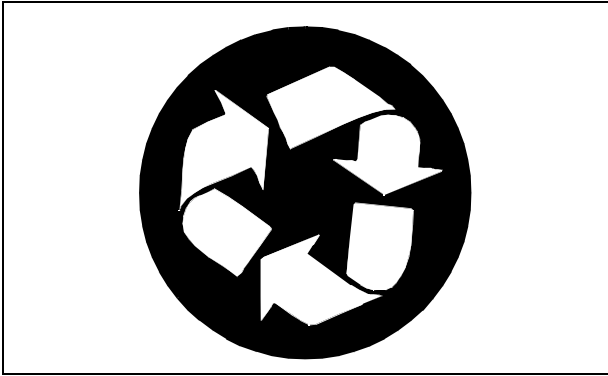
- Never fill fuel tank or drain fuel from a machine in an enclosed area. Fill fuel tank outdoors.
- Prevent fires. Clean up spilled fuel immediately.
- Do not store machine with fuel in tank in a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark.
- Prevent fire and explosion caused by static electric discharge. Use only non-metal, portable fuel containers approved by the Underwriter's Laboratory (U.L.) or the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM). If using a funnel, make sure it is plastic and has no screen or filter.



- Static electric discharge can ignite gasoline vapors in an ungrounded fuel container. Remove the fuel container from the bed of a vehicle or the trunk of a car and place on the ground away from the vehicle before filling. Keep nozzle in contact with container opening while filling.
- When practical, remove equipment from trailers or truck beds and refuel them on the ground. If this is not possible, use a portable, plastic fuel container to refuel equipment on a truck bed or trailer.
- For gasoline engines, do not use gas with methanol. Methanol is harmful to your health and to the environment.

SAFETY

Handling Waste Product and Chemicals



Waste products, such as, used oil, fuel, coolant, brake fluid, and batteries, can harm the environment and people:

- Do not use beverage containers for waste fluids - someone may drink from them.
- See your local Recycling Center or John Deere dealer to learn how to recycle or get rid of waste products.
- A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provides specific details on chemical products: physical and health hazards, safety procedures, and emergency response techniques. The seller of the chemical products used with your machine is responsible for providing the MSDS for that product.



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OPERATING

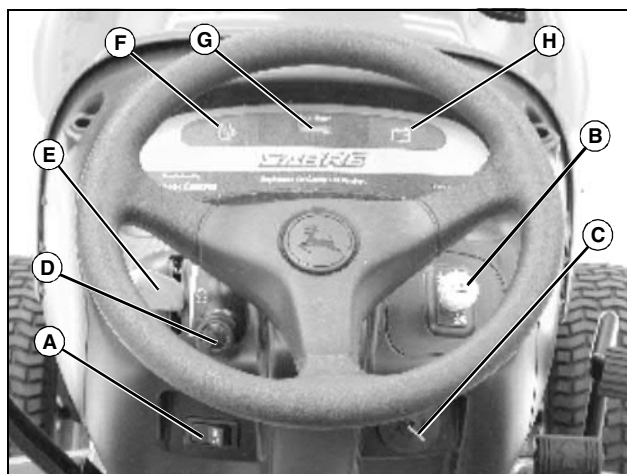
Daily Operating Checklist

- Test safety systems.
- Check tire pressure.
- Check fuel level.
- Check engine oil level.
- Remove grass and debris from engine compartment and muffler area, before and after operating machine.

Avoid Damage to Plastic and Painted Surfaces

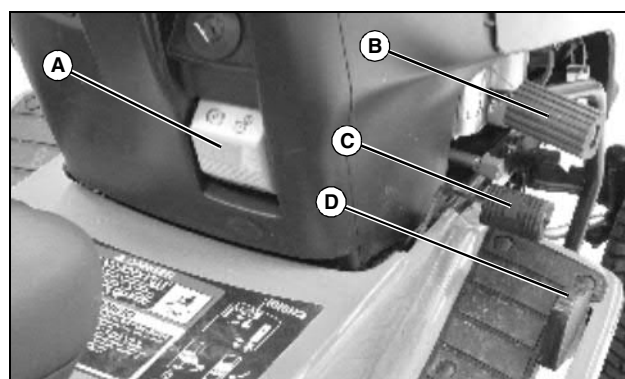
- Do not wipe plastic parts unless rinsed first. (See Correct Cleaning Care in Service-Miscellaneous section.)
- Insect repellent spray may damage plastic and painted surfaces. Do not spray insect repellent near machine.
- Be careful not to spill fuel on machine. Fuel may damage surface. Wipe up spilled fuel immediately.

Operator Station Controls



MX13501

- A - Light Switch**
- B - PTO Switch/RIO Switch**
- C - Key Switch**
- D - Choke Knob**
- E - Throttle Lever**
- F - Engine Oil Pressure Light (21, 23, and 25 HP models only)**
- G - Hour Meter**
- H - Battery Discharge Light**



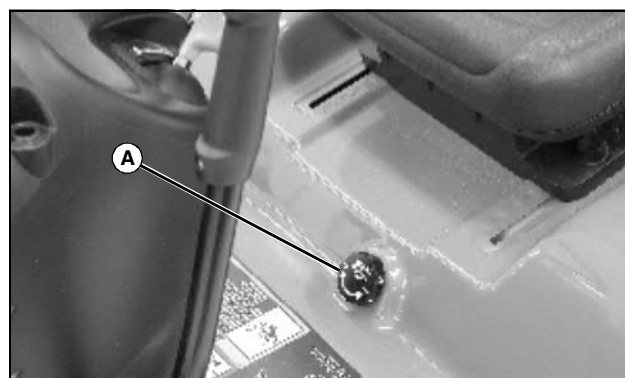
MX13502

- A - Park Brake Lever**
- B - Brake Pedal**
- C - Forward Travel Pedal**
- D - Reverse Travel Pedal**



MX13503

- A - Mower Lift Lever**



MX13504

- A - Cut Height Adjustment Lever**

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