

**JA60 and JA62  
21-Inch Walk-Behind  
Rotary Mowers**  
(Serial No. 010001 – )



**OPERATOR'S  
MANUAL**

**John Deere  
Worldwide Commercial and  
Consumer Equipment Division  
OMGC00260 A8**

North American Version  
Litho in U.S.A  
English



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1997

# SAFETY SIGNS

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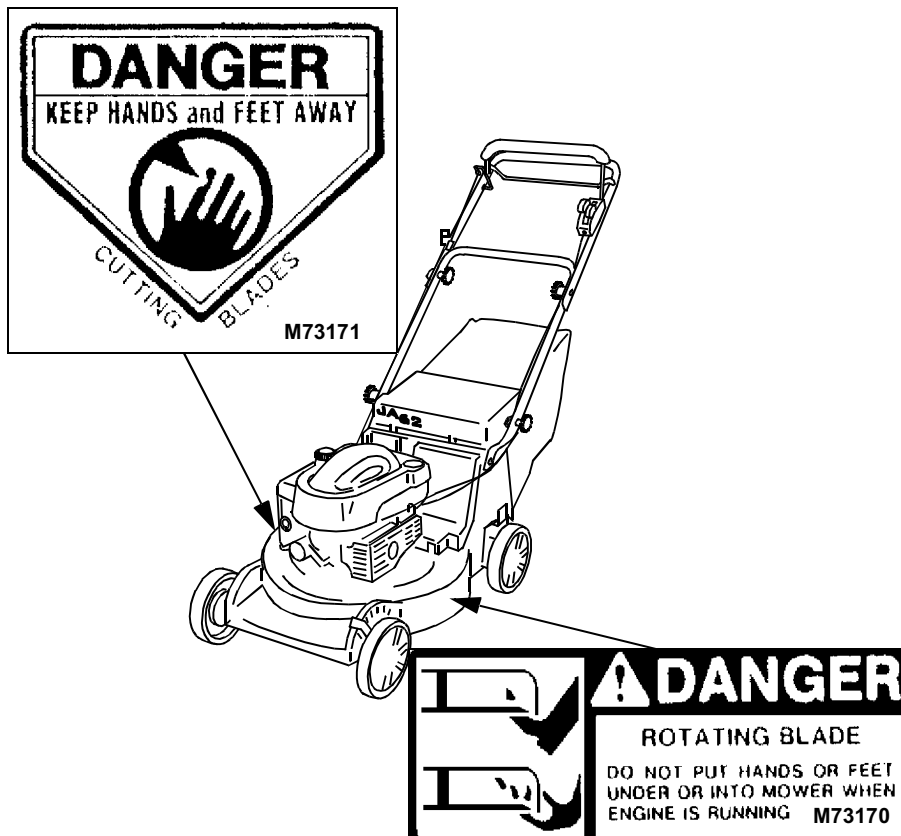
## Safety-Alert Symbol

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

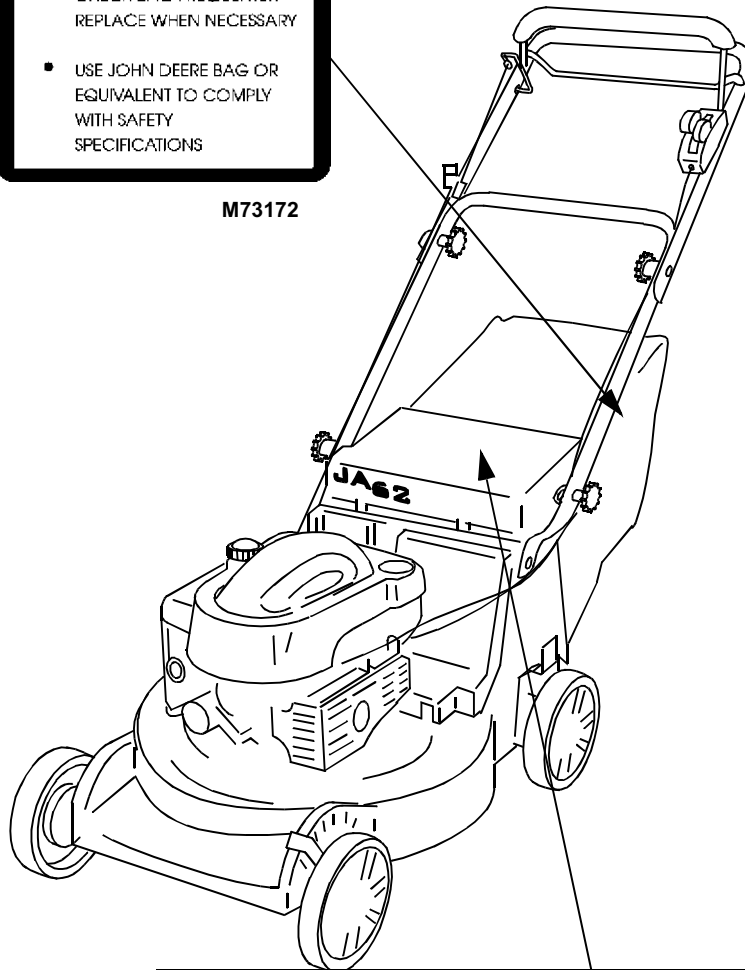


# SAFETY SIGNS

**⚠ CAUTION**

- BAG IS SUBJECT TO WEAR AND DETERIORATION
- CHECK BAG FREQUENTLY. REPLACE WHEN NECESSARY
- USE JOHN DEERE BAG OR EQUIVALENT TO COMPLY WITH SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS

M73172



**⚠ DANGER**

**ROTATING BLADE**  
Stop engine before lifting door and clearing discharge

**THROWN OBJECTS**  
Do not lift or block door open with blade engaged

Do not mow without catcher, side chute or mulcher plug/plate in place

M73467

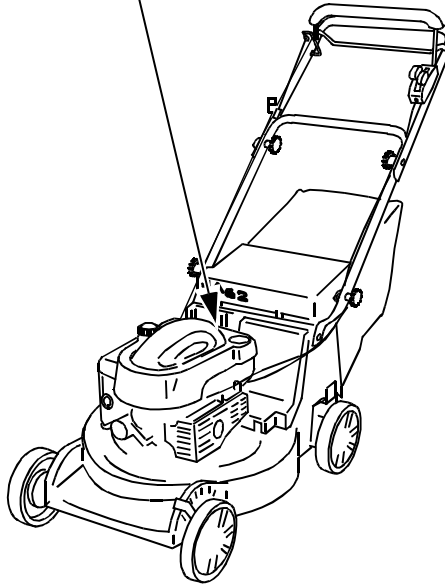
## SAFETY SIGNS

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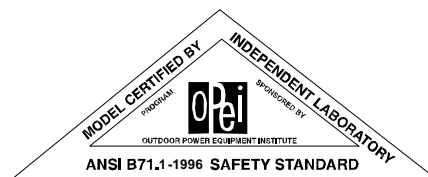
<b>⚠ CAUTION</b> HELP AVOID INJURIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pick up objects that blade may hit and throw</li><li>• Keep children and bystanders far away</li><li>• Stop engine before adjusting cutting height</li><li>• Read operator's manual</li></ul>
	SS

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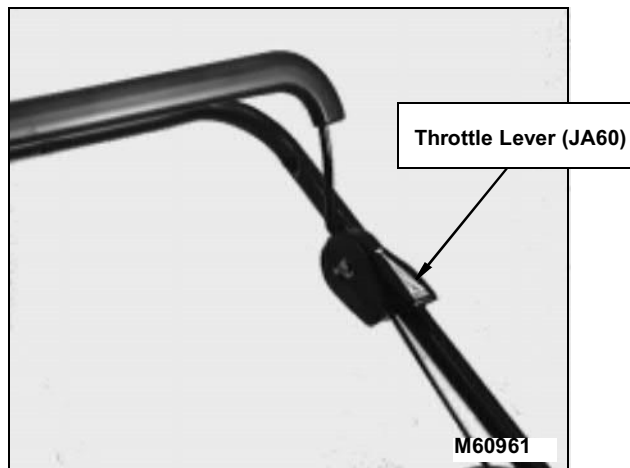
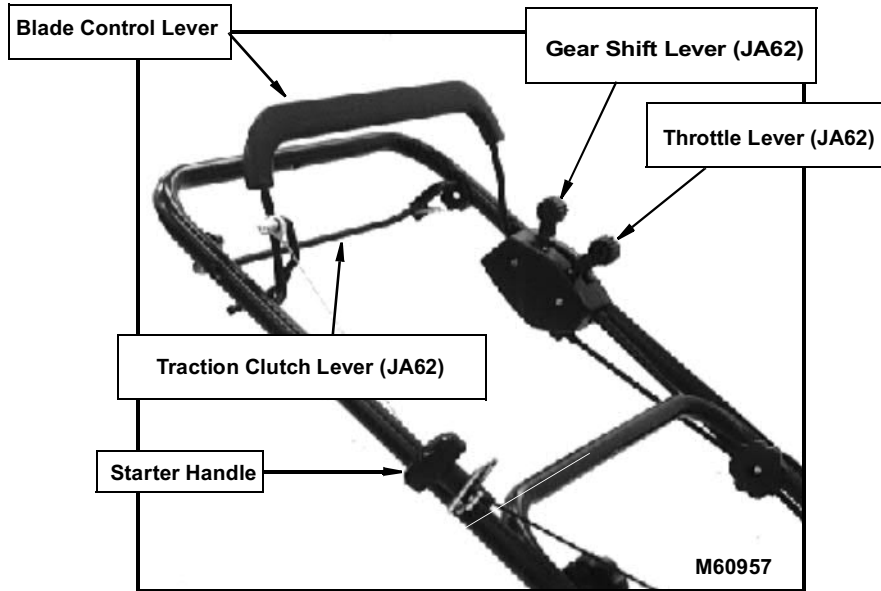
### Certification Label

This OPEI label on your mower indicates that this model has been certified by an independent laboratory for compliance with American National Standard B-71.1-1996, "Safety Specifications" for Power Lawn Mowers, Lawn and Garden Tractors, and Lawn Tractors.



# CONTROLS

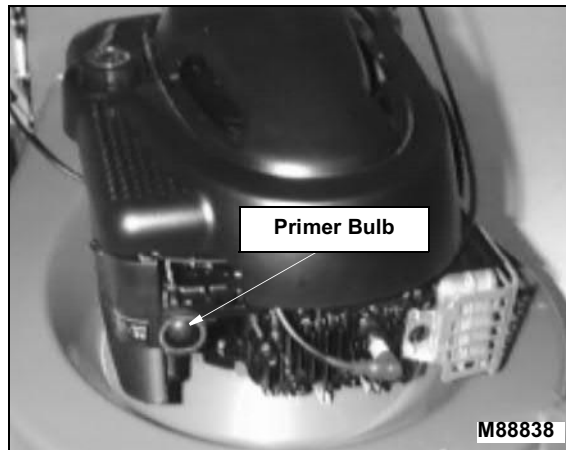
## Handle Controls



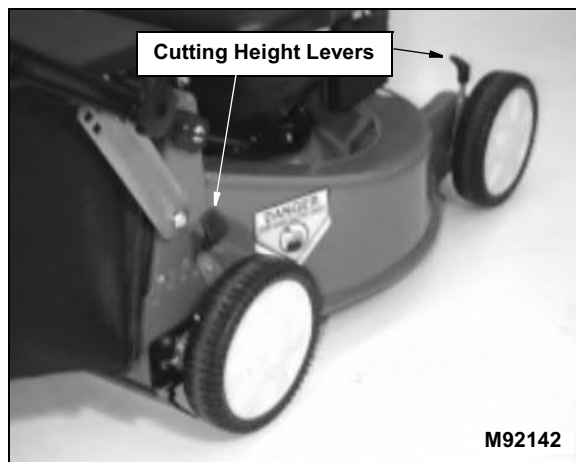
# CONTROLS

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## Engine Controls



## Cutting Height Controls



# 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 proper guards, plates, grass catcher, or other 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 thrown. 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. Keep all guards, plates, grass catcher, or other safety devices in place.
- 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.
- Mow across a hill - not up and down. Be careful when you change direction on a slope. Do Not mow excessively steep slopes.
- DO NOT mow wet grass. Reduced traction could cause you to slip.
- Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads.
- 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.
- DO NOT operate mower if you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## OPERATING

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### Rotating Blades Are Dangerous - Protect Children and Prevent Accidents



#### PROTECT CHILDREN:

- 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 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.
- Shut off blades when you are not mowing.
- Keep hands, feet, and clothing away from rotating blades.

### Wear Appropriate Clothing



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

# OPERATING

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## ADJUSTMENTS

### Adjust Cutting Height



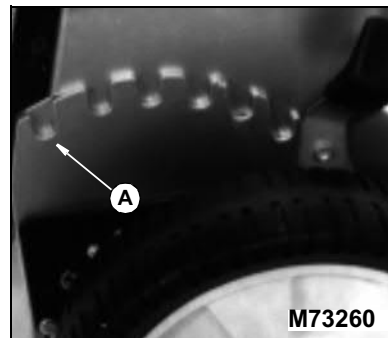
**CAUTION:** Before you adjust cutting height:  
• **STOP ENGINE.**

**IMPORTANT:** Adjust all levers to same height except for **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.

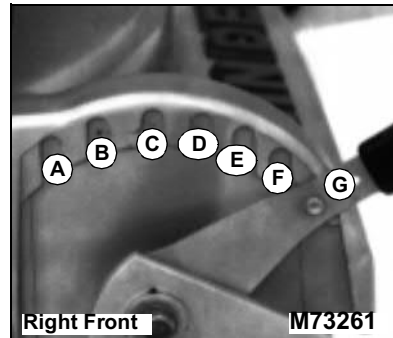
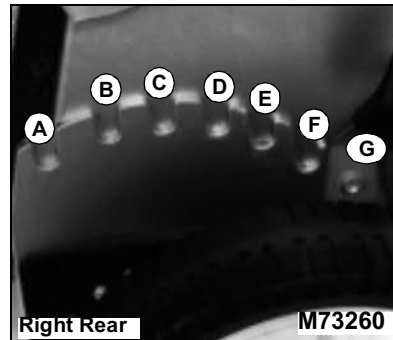
To help move rear wheel levers:

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



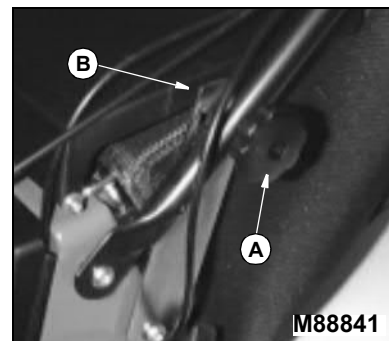
## OPERATING

Key	Cutting Height Adjustments In Inches (MM)
(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)



### Adjust Handle Height

1. Remove knob (A) and bolt from each side.
2. Move handle to desired height.
3. Line up square hole in bracket (B) with hole in handle.
4. Install bolt through holes. Install knob.
5. Repeat Steps 2–4 on other side.





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# OPERATING

## Starting Engine

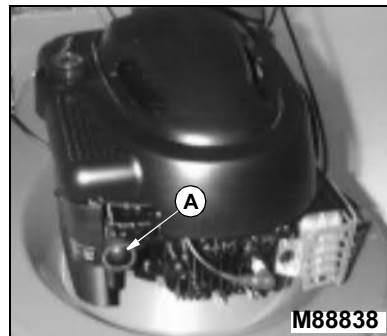


**CAUTION:** Engine exhaust fumes can cause sickness or death. Run engine only in a ventilated area. If you run engine in an enclosed area, remove exhaust with exhaust pipe extension, or open doors to bring in outside air.

**IMPORTANT:** To help prevent damage to starter and band brake, do not start the engine:

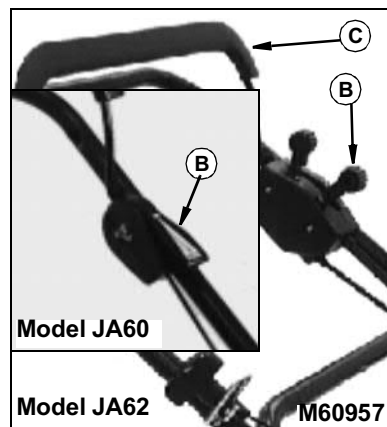
- When blade is under load, such as, in heavy grass OR
- When blade control lever is **RELEASED**.

1. Prime engine by pressing primer bulb (A) three times.



2. Move throttle lever (B) to the **FAS** position.

3. Hold lever (C) against handle.



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