

240, 260, 265 and 285 Lawn and Garden Tractors (Serial No. 100001-)



JOHN DEERE

OPERATORS MANUAL

240, 260, 265 and 285 Lawn and Garden
Tractors (Serial No. 100001-)

OMM96102 Edition G0 English

John Deere Horicon Works
OMM96102 Edition G0

(This manual replaces OMM95270 J9.)
(Mark old manual OMM95270 J9 for
machines up to Serial No. 099999.)

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
-JUN-06SEP88

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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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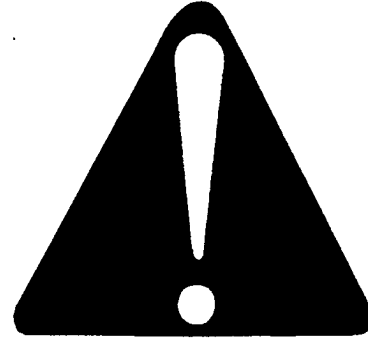
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Safety

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 -19-26JAN90

T81389 -UN-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 -19-26JAN90

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.



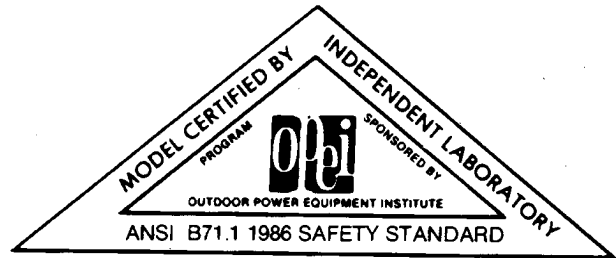
O53.READ -19-26JAN90

TS201 -UN-23AUG88



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 -19-26JAN90

PROTECT CHILDREN

Keep children and others away when you operate machine.

BEFORE YOU BACK UP:

- STOP 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.



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MX,SAAG,A -19-25JUN90



AVOID TIPPING



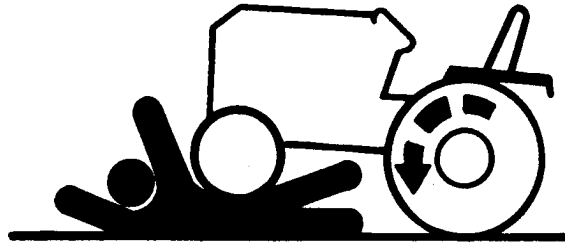
M41275 -UN-06SEP88

1. Do not drive where machine could slip or tip.
2. Stay alert for holes, rocks, and roots in terrain, and other hidden hazards. Keep away from drop-offs.
3. Slow down before you make a sharp turn.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Do not stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill.
7. If machine stops going up hill:
 - STOP PTO.
 - Back down slowly.

MX, SAAG, B -19-25JUN90



PARK TRACTOR SAFELY



M41273 -UN-06SEP88

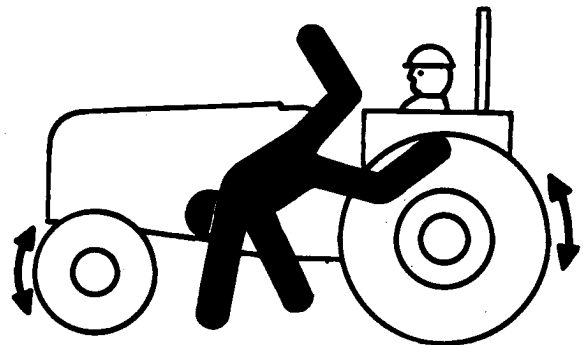
1. Move shift lever to N (NEUTRAL) position.
2. Disengage PTO's.
3. Lower equipment to ground.
4. Engage park brake.
5. STOP engine.
6. Remove key.
7. Before you leave operator's seat, wait for engine and attachment parts to STOP.

MX,SAAG,C -19-25JUN90

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.



TS290 -UN-23AUG88

O53,RIDER -19-26JAN90



HANDLE FUEL SAFELY—AVOID FIRES

Handle fuel with care, it is highly flammable.

Do not refuel riding mower:

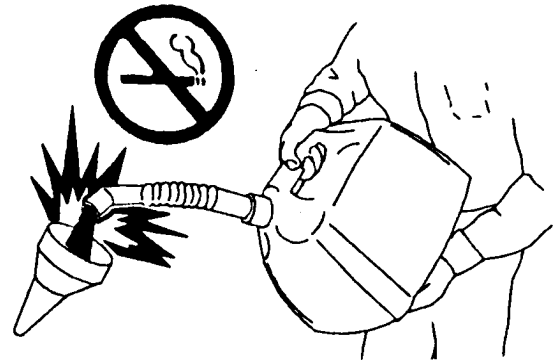
- While you smoke.
- When riding mower is near open flame or sparks.
- When engine is running. STOP engine.

Fill fuel tank outdoors.

Help prevent fires:

- Clean oil, grease and dirt from riding mower.
- Clean up spilled fuel immediately.

Do not store riding mower with fuel in tank in a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark.



M73115 -UN-09MAR90

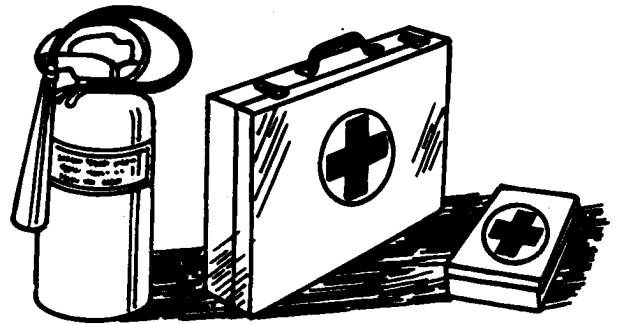
MX,SAAG,C1 -19-25JUN90

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.



TS291 -UN-23AUG88

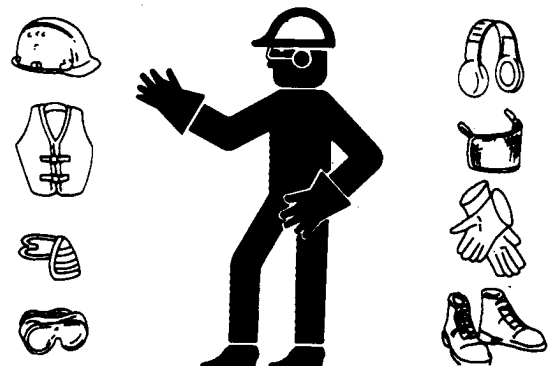
O53,FIRE2 -19-26JAN90

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.



TS206 -UN-23AUG88

O53,WEAR -19-26JAN90



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 -19-26JAN90

TS218 -UN-23AUG88

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

Only attempt to mount a tire if you have the proper equipment and experience to perform the job. Have it done by your John Deere dealer or a qualified repair service.

Always maintain the correct tire pressure. Do not inflate the tires above the recommended pressure.

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. Use a safety cage if available.

Inspect tires and wheels daily. Do not operate with low pressure, cuts, bubbles, damaged rims or missing lug bolts and nuts.

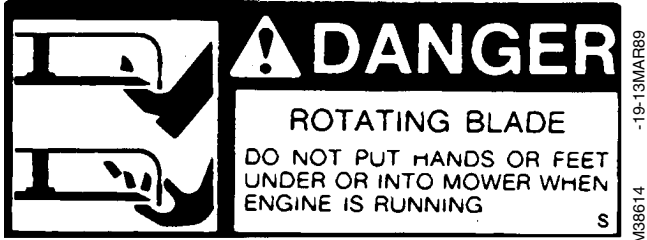


MX,SAAG,I -19-25JUN90

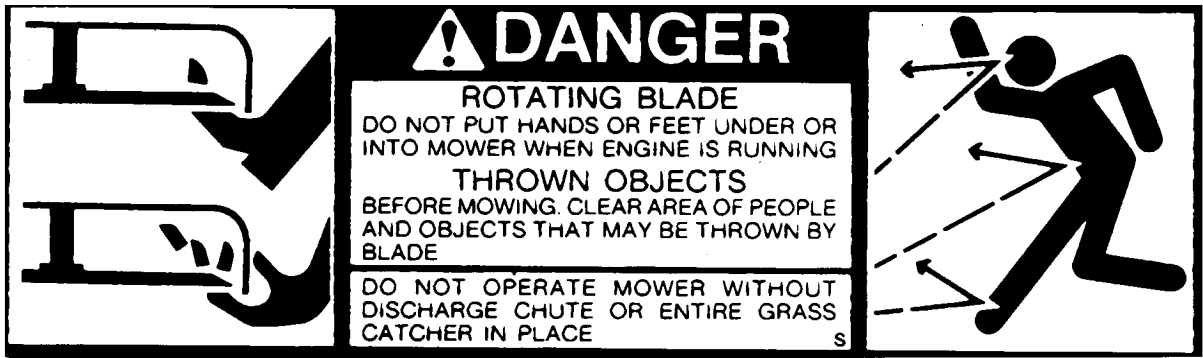
M34163 -UN-25AUG88

Safety Signs

READ SAFETY SIGNS



MX,SAAG,D -19-25JUN90



MX,SAAG,H -19-25JUN90

Safety Signs



M41143 -19-16MAR89



M74244 -19-30MAY90

MX,SAAG,E -19-25JUN90



M74263 -19-30MAY90



M74245 -19-30MAY90

MX,SAAG,F -19-25JUN90



-19-11JAN89

M61252



M74246
-19-30MAY90

MX,SAAG,G -19-25JUN90

Controls

- A—Clutch Pedal (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)

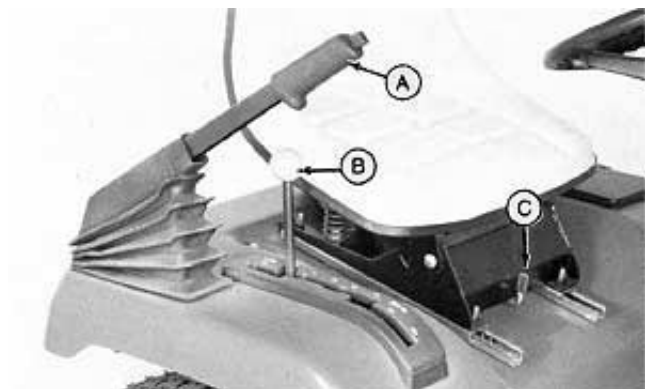


MX,CTAG,A -19-25JUN90

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 -19-25JUN90

M41145 -UN-06SEP88

LIFT ASSIST SPRING CRANK

- A—Lift Assist Spring Crank

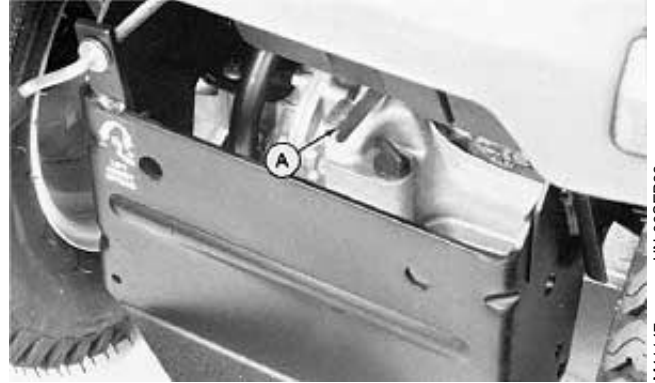


MX,CTAG,C -19-25JUN90

M41146 -UN-06SEP88

TOW DISCONNECT LEVER (265 AND 285 TRACTORS)

A—Tow Disconnect Lever



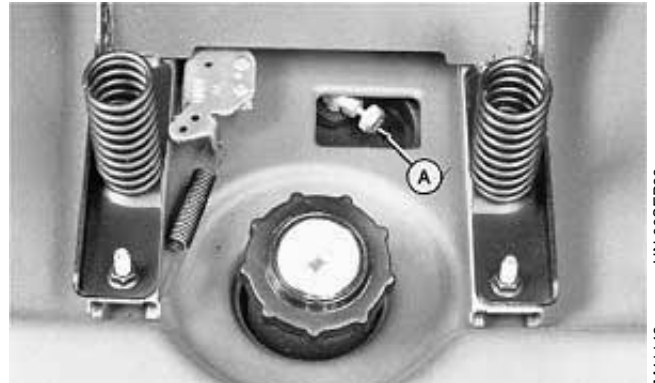
MX,CTAG,D -19-25JUN90

M41147 -UN-06SEP88

FUEL SHUTOFF VALVE

All tractors except 285 Fuel-Injected Tractor.

A—Fuel Shutoff Valve



MX,CTAG,E -19-25JUN90

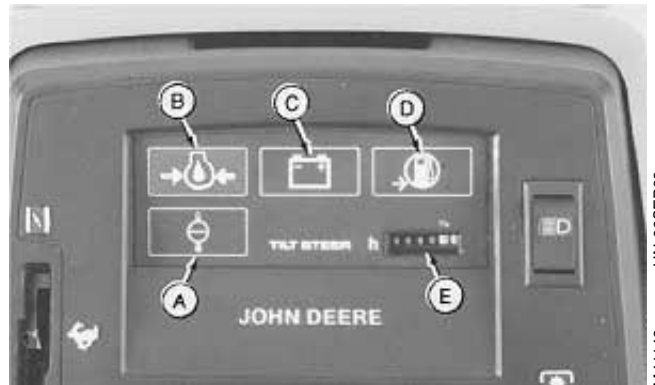
M41148 -UN-06SEP88

INDICATOR LIGHTS AND HOUR METER

Hour Meter:

- Standard: 260, 265 and 285 Tractors
- Optional: 240 Tractor

- A—Coolant Temperature (285 Tractor)
- B—Engine Oil Pressure (260, 265 and 285 Tractors)
- C—Battery Discharge
- D—Low Fuel
- E—Hour Meter



MX,CTAG,F -19-25JUN90

M41149 -UN-06SEP88

Operating Engine

WORK IN VENTILATED AREA

Engine exhaust fumes can cause sickness or death. If it is necessary to run an engine in an enclosed area, remove the exhaust fumes from the area with an exhaust pipe extension.

If you do not have an exhaust pipe extension, open the doors and get outside air into the area.



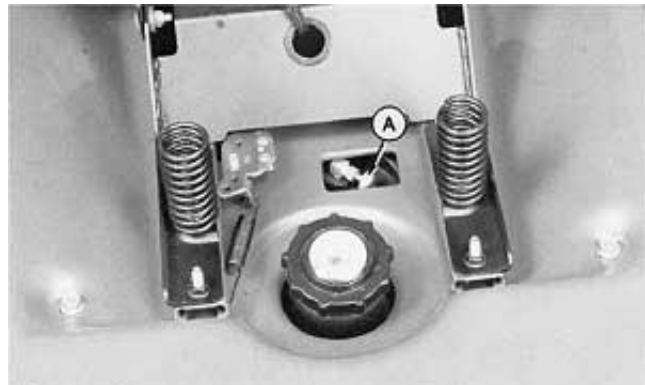
O53,AIR -19-26JAN90

TS220 -UN-23AUG88

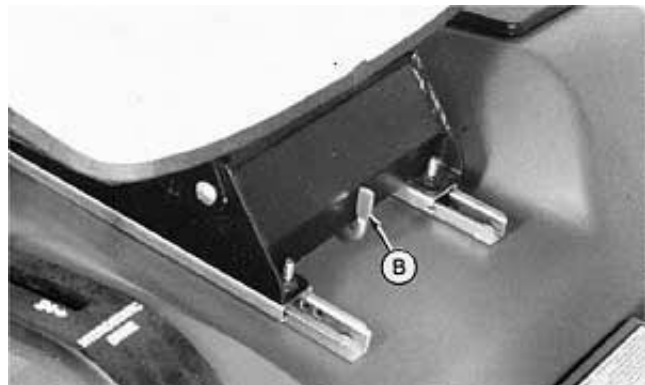
STARTING ENGINE

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

1. Lift seat.
2. Turn knob counterclockwise to open fuel shut-off valve (A): All tractors except 285 Fuel-Injected Tractor.
3. Lower seat.
4. Adjust seat forward or rearward by moving lever (B) left.
5. LOCK seat in position by releasing lever.



M41150 -UN-06SEP88



M41252 -UN-06SEP88

MX,OEAG,A -19-25JUN90

6. 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.

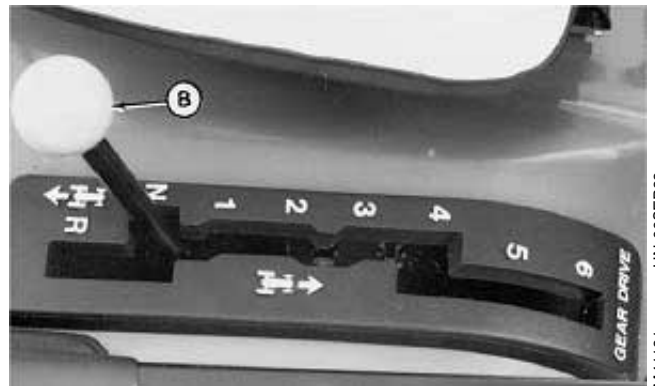
IMPORTANT: Depress clutch pedal before moving transmission shift lever:

- To prevent damage to shift linkage.
- Shift lever cannot be moved until clutch pedal is depressed.

- GEAR TRANSMISSION TRACTOR: Depress clutch pedal and move transmission shift lever (B) to N (NEUTRAL) position.



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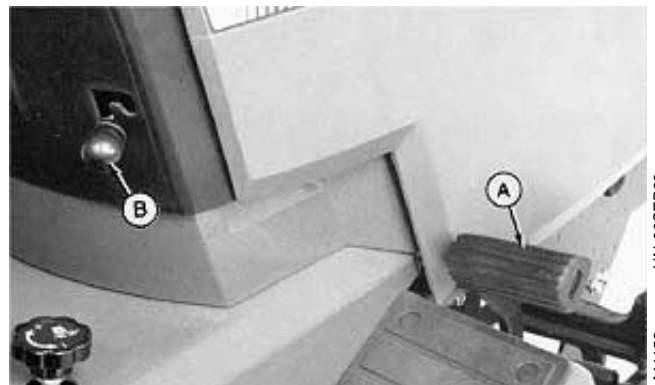
M41181 -UN-06SEP88

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

7. LOCK park brake:

- Move park brake knob (B) to lower slot.
- 240 and 260 Tractors: Push down clutch (not shown) and brake pedal (A).
- 265 and 285 Tractors: Push down brake pedal.
- Release pedal(s). Pedal(s) should stay down.



M41153 -UN-06SEP88

MX,OEAG,C -19-25JUN90

Operating Engine

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.

8. Move PTO switch lever (A) DOWN to OFF position.



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M41154 -UN-06SEP88

9. If engine is cold: Move throttle lever (A) to CHOKE position.

- If engine is warm: Put throttle at idle to HALF-SPEED position.



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M41155 -UN-06SEP88

IMPORTANT: Do not operate starter more than 20 seconds at a time, you may damage it. If engine does not start:

- Wait 2 minutes before you try again.
- See Troubleshooting section.

10. Turn key (A) to START position to crank engine.

11. When engine starts, release key to RUN position.

12. Move throttle lever to HALF-SPEED position.



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M41156 -UN-06SEP88

**COLD WEATHER STARTING (240, 260, 265
AND 285 TRACTOR)**

1. Push throttle choke lever all the way up to CHOKE position.
2. Turn key to START position to crank engine.
 - Crank engine 5 seconds.
 - If engine does not start, wait 10 seconds.
 - Crank engine again 5 seconds.
 - Repeat this procedure if necessary.
3. When engine starts, release key to RUN position.
4. Move throttle lever to HALF-SPEED position as soon as it will continue running without choke.

MX,OEAG,J -19-25JUN90

**COLD WEATHER STARTING (285 FUEL
INJECTED TRACTOR)**

Move throttle lever to HALF-SPEED position.

Crank engine until engine starts.

MX,OEAG,J1 -19-25JUN90

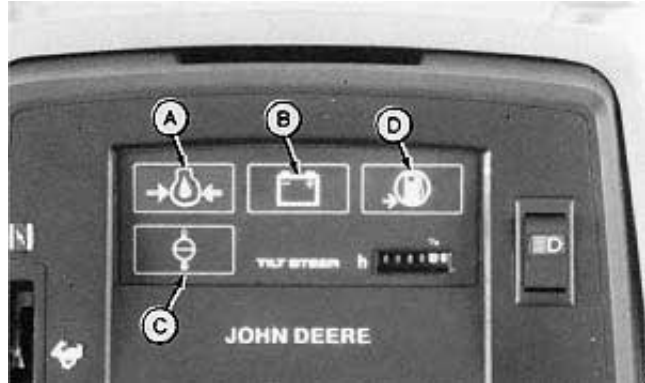
CHECKING INDICATOR LIGHTS

1. After engine starts:

- Oil pressure indicator (A) should go out within 5 seconds: 260, 265, and 285 Tractors.
- Battery discharge indicator (B) should go out within 10 seconds. If not, move throttle lever to 3/4 position.
- Coolant temperature light (C) should go out within 5 seconds: 285 Tractor.
- Low fuel indicator light (D) will only come on when fuel supply is low. Engine will run for approximately 15 minutes after light comes on before stopping.

2. If indicator lights stay on longer than given time:

- STOP engine.
- Find and correct problem.



A—Oil Pressure Indicator
B—Battery Discharger
C—Coolant Temperature Light
D—Low Fuel Indicator Light

MX,OEAG,G -19-25JUN90

WARMING AND IDLING ENGINE

1. WARMING ENGINE:

- Run engine at HALF-SPEED for 2—3 minutes.

2. IDLING ENGINE:

- Engine needs a large volume of air to keep cool. Keep grille, louvers, and screen on top of engine clean.
- Avoid unnecessary engine idling.

MX,OEAG,H -19-25JUN90

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