

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

SELF PROPELLED ROTARY Lawn Mower

- **Assembly**
- **Operation**
 - **Maintenance**
 - **Service and Adjustments**
 - **Storage**
 - **Troubleshooting**

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SAFETY RULES

IMPORTANT: This cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

Safety standards require operator presence controls to minimize the risk of injury. Your unit is equipped with such controls. Do not attempt to defeat the function of the operator presence controls under any circumstances.

TRAINING:

- Read this operator's manual carefully. Become familiar with the controls and know how to operate your mower properly. Learn how to quickly stop mower.
- Do not allow children to use your mower. Never allow adults to use mower without proper instructions.
- Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, especially small children and pets.
- Use mower only as the manufacturer intended and as described in this manual.
- Do not operate mower if it has been dropped or damaged in any manner. Always have damage repaired before using your mower.
- Do not use accessory attachments that are not recommended by the manufacturer. Use of such attachments may be hazardous.
- The blade turns when the engine is running.

PREPARATION:

- Always thoroughly check the area to be mowed and clear it of all stones, sticks, wires, bones, and other foreign objects. These objects will be thrown by the blade and can cause severe injury.
- Always wear safety glasses or eye shields when starting and while using your mower.

- Dress properly. Do not operate mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Wear only solid shoes with good traction when mowing.
- Check fuel tank before starting engine. Do not fill gas tank indoors, when the engine is running or when the engine is hot. Allow the engine to cool for several minutes before filling the gas tank. Clean off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine.
- Always make wheel height adjustments before starting your mower. Never attempt to do this while the engine is running.
- Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.

OPERATION:

- Keep your eyes and mind on your mower and the area being cut. Do not let other interests distract you.
- Do not mow wet or slippery grass. Never run while operating your mower. Always be sure of your footing — keep a firm hold on the handles and walk.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Always stop the engine whenever you leave or are not using your mower, or before crossing driveways, walks, roads, and any gravel-covered areas.
- Never direct discharge of material toward bystanders nor allow anyone near the mower while you are operating it.
- Before cleaning, inspecting, or repairing your mower, stop the engine and make absolutely sure the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Then disconnect the spark plug wire and keep it away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.

- Do not continue to run your mower if you hit a foreign object. Follow the procedure outlined above, then repair any damage before restarting and operating your mower.
- Do not change the governor settings or overspeed the engine. Engine damage or personal injury may result.
- Do not operate your mower if it vibrates abnormally. Excessive vibration is an indication of damage; stop the engine, safely check for the cause of vibration and repair as required.
- Do not run the engine indoors. Exhaust fumes are dangerous.
- Never cut grass by pulling the mower towards you. Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down or you might lose your footing. Do not mow excessively steep slopes. Use caution when operating the mower on uneven terrain or when changing directions — maintain good footing.
- Never operate your mower without proper guards, plates, grass catcher or other safety devices in place.
- Keep all safety devices in place and working.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves or excessive grease and oil.
- Check grass catcher often for deterioration and wear and replace worn bags. Use only replacement bags that are recommended by and comply with specifications of the manufacturer of your mower.
- Always keep a sharp blade on your mower.
- Allow engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- Never store mower with fuel in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or an ignition source such as a hot water heater, space heater, clothes dryer, etc.

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE:

- Check the blade and the engine mounting bolts often to be sure they are tightened properly.
- Check all bolts, nuts and screws at frequent intervals for proper tightness to be sure mower is in safe working condition.

 Look for this symbol to point out important safety precautions. It means **CAUTION!!! BECOME ALERT!!! YOUR SAFETY IS INVOLVED.**

CAUTION: Always disconnect spark plug wire and place wire where it cannot contact spark plug in order to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs.

CAUTION: Engine exhaust from this product contains chemicals known, in certain quantities, to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.

CONGRATULATIONS on your purchase of a new Lawn Mower. It has been designed, engineered and manufactured to give you the best possible dependability and performance.

Should you experience any problems you cannot easily remedy, please contact your nearest authorized service center. They have competent, well trained technicians and the proper tools to service or repair this unit.

- Read the SAFETY RULES and this Operator's Manual in its entirety before you attempt to assemble or operate your new lawn mower to insure proper operation and to prevent injury to yourself and others. Save this manual for future reference.
- Your new lawn mower has been assembled at the factory with the exception of those parts left unassembled for shipping purposes. To ensure safe and proper operation of your lawn mower, all parts and hardware you assemble must be tightened securely. Use the correct tools as necessary to ensure proper tightness.
- All parts such as nuts, washers, bolts, etc., necessary to complete the assembly have been placed in the parts bag.

TO REMOVE MOWER FROM CARTON

- Remove all loose parts from carton.
- Remove lawn mower housing with care. Avoid touching blade under housing. Always wear gloves or other protection when working under or lifting mower.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU ASSEMBLE OR OPERATE YOUR LAWN MOWER

Do I have a side or rear discharge lawn mower?

Look for the grass discharge opening on your mower. If the opening is on the right side of the mower housing, it is a side discharge mower. If the opening is at the back of the mower housing, it is a rear discharge mower. Only rear discharge lawn mowers have a grass catcher included with the mower. Approved grass catchers for side discharge mowers may be purchased from your nearest authorized dealer.

Do I have a mulching lawn mower?

Look for the grass discharge opening on your mower. Raise the discharge guard (rear door on rear discharge mowers). If the opening is closed off by a plate, then your lawn mower is mulcher ready. To convert to a discharging mower, see the Operation section of this manual.

What is the right and left side of the lawn mower?

When right hand (RH) or left hand (LH) is mentioned in this manual, it means when you are in the operating position (standing behind the handle).

What kind of engine is on my lawn mower?

When learning how to operate your new lawn mower, you will need to know what kind of engine powers the mower. A decal on the engine will indicate the manufacturer and type or brand name of the engine.

BRIGGS & STRATTON ENGINES



CLASSIC



Sprint



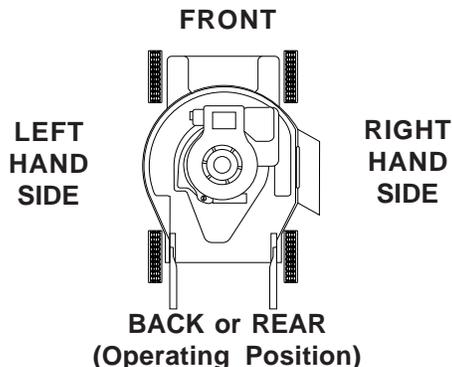
QUANTUM

TECUMSEH ENGINES



HONDA ENGINES

HONDA



ASSEMBLY

⚠CAUTION: Do not operate this mower without the discharge guard or an entire approved grass catcher in place. These guards are for your protection and are required by the American National Standards Institute and Consumer Products Safety Commission.

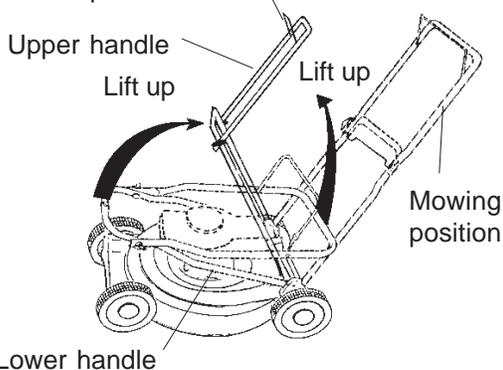
⚠CAUTION: Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.

HOW TO SET UP YOUR LAWN MOWER

UNFOLD HANDLE

IMPORTANT: Unfold handle carefully so as not to pinch or damage control cables.

- Raise handles until lower handle section locks into place in operating position.
- Raise upper handle section into place on lower handle, remove protective padding and tighten both handle knobs.
- Remove handle padding holding operator presence control bar to upper handle.
- Your lawn mower handle can be adjusted for your mowing comfort. Refer to "Adjust Handle" in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual. Operator presence control bar

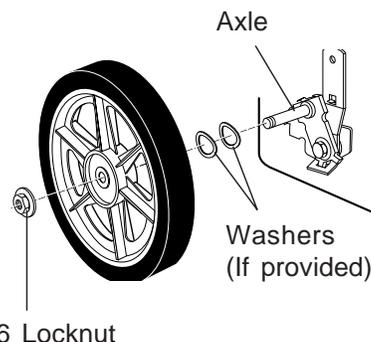


NOTE: For shipping purposes, the rear wheels on your lawn mower may not be adjusted to the same position as the front wheels. Before operating mower adjust all wheels to the same cutting height.

FOR HIGH WHEEL MOWERS ONLY INSTALL REAR WHEELS

Some high wheel models require washers which will be provided in a parts bag. If provided, install washers on the axle first as shown.

- Install one (1) rear wheel on the axle of rear wheel adjuster.
- Install 3/8-16 locknut and tighten securely.
- Repeat procedure for other rear wheel.



FOR REAR DISCHARGE MOWERS ONLY - ASSEMBLE GRASS CATCHER

IMPORTANT: If your model lawn mower is mulcher ready, the mulcher plate must be removed before using mower as a bagger. To convert mower to bagging or discharging, see the Operation section in this manual.

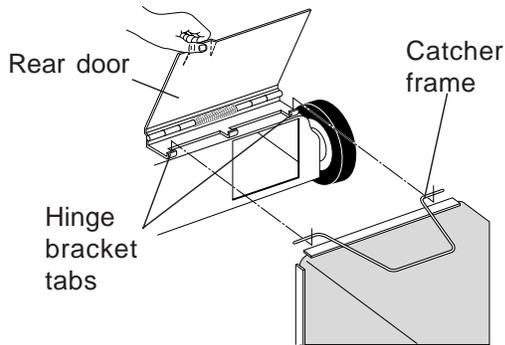
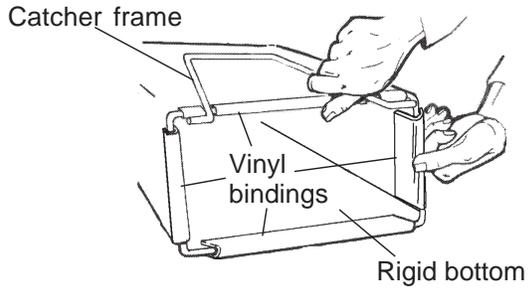
Look at the different grass catcher illustrations that follow. Determine which type of grass catcher you have and follow the appropriate instructions.

FABRIC TOP GRASS CATCHERS

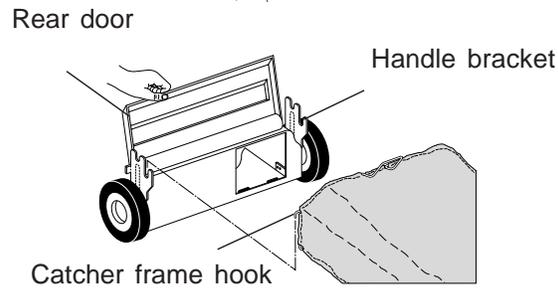
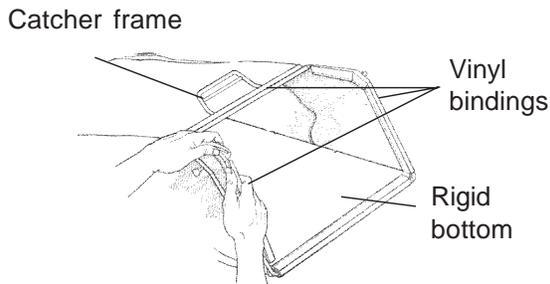
TO ASSEMBLE & ATTACH GRASS CATCHER

- Put grass catcher frame into grass bag with rigid part of bag on the bottom.
- Slip vinyl bindings over frame.
- NOTE:** If vinyl bindings are too stiff, hold them in warm water for a few minutes. If bag gets wet, let it dry before using.
- Lift the rear door on the mower housing.
- For HINGE BRACKET mounted catcher, place the grass catcher frame onto the formed tabs on the rear door hinge bracket.
- For HANDLE BRACKET mounted catcher, place frame side hooks into slots in handle brackets.
- The grass catcher is secured to the lawn mower housing when the rear door is lowered onto the grass catcher frame.

HINGE BRACKET MOUNTED FABRIC TOP CATCHER



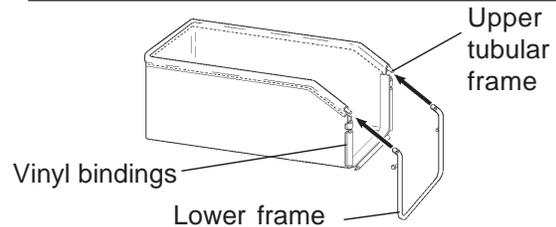
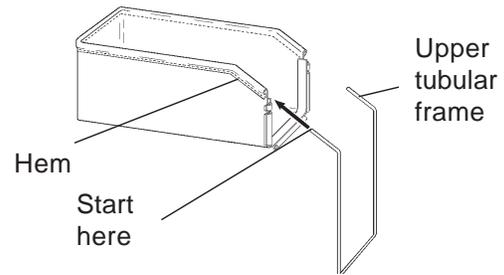
HANDLE BRACKET MOUNTED FABRIC TOP CATCHER



HARD TOP GRASS CATCHER

ASSEMBLE FRAME AND BAG

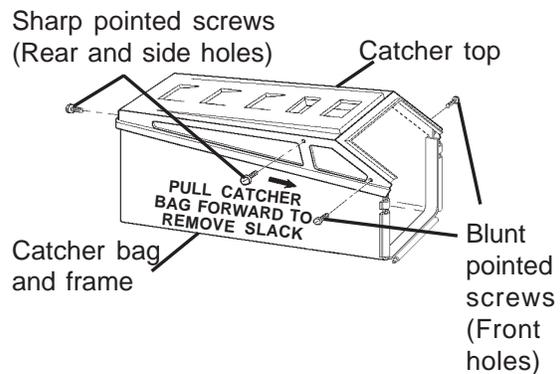
- Thread upper tubular frame into hem of bag as shown. Be sure angled ends of frame point downwards.
- Slip lower frame into tubular upper frame as shown.
- Slip vinyl bindings over frame.



ASSEMBLE TOP TO FRAME AND BAG

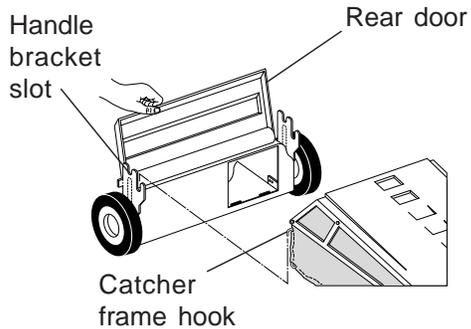
NOTE: For ease of assembly, place catcher top upside down on work surface.

- Nest bag and frame assembly into catcher top.
- Install two (2) sharp pointed screws to rear holes first and tighten securely.
- Pull bag forward on frame to remove slack.
- Install two (2) remaining sharp pointed screws in side holes and tighten securely.
- Align lower frame and catcher top front holes.
- Install two (2) blunt pointed screws in front holes and tighten securely.



TO ATTACH HARDTOP CATCHER

- Open the rear door on mower housing.
- Place frame side hooks into slots in handle brackets.
- Release rear door allowing it to nest into top of catcher.

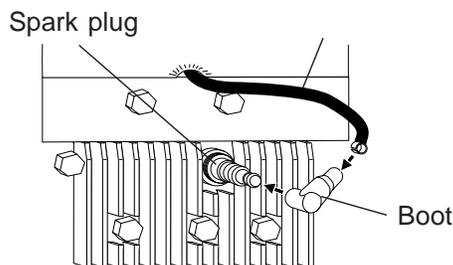


⚠CAUTION: Under normal usage, the catcher material is subject to deterioration and wear and should, therefore, be checked frequently for replacement. Any replacement catcher should be checked to ensure compliance with original manufacturer's specifications.

⚠CAUTION: Do not run lawn mower without the discharge guard (rear door), approved grass catcher, clipping deflector or mulcher plate in place. Never attempt to operate mower with the discharge guard (rear door) removed or propped open.

SPARK PLUG BOOT

On some models a spark plug boot is packed loose in the parts bag. If your model has the boot, install on spark plug wire and reconnect spark plug wire to spark plug.



FOR ELECTRIC START MODELS ONLY

TO PREPARE BATTERY

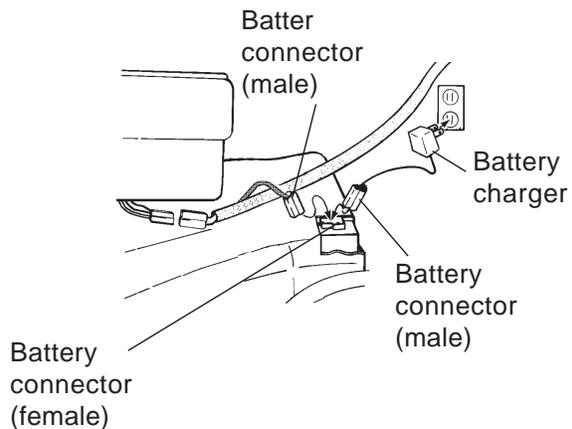
NOTE: Your battery must be charged before you can start your lawn mower.

- Disconnect engine connector (male) from battery connector (female).
- Connect battery charger connector (male) to battery connector (female).
- Plug battery charger into 110 volt A.C. outlet.
- Leave battery charger connected for 24 hours before starting your engine for the first time.
- After charging, connect engine connector (male) to battery connector.

Your engine has an integral alternator for partial charging. Connect your battery charger to charge battery as required.

IMPORTANT: The engine alternator will not charge a discharged battery.

At the end of the mowing season the battery should be charged for 48 hours to protect the battery during winter storage.



⚠CAUTION: Always disconnect the engine connector (male) from the battery connector (female) to prevent accidental starting when transporting or storing your lawn mower after the season.

OPERATION



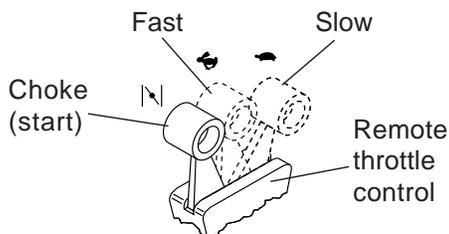
The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects thrown into the eyes, which can result in severe eye damage. Always wear safety glasses or eye shields while operating your lawn mower or performing any adjustments or repairs. We recommend a wide vision safety mask for over the spectacles or standard safety glasses.

HOW TO USE YOUR LAWN MOWER ENGINE SPEED CONTROL

MODELS WITH REMOTE THROTTLE

Engine speed is controlled by the throttle control located on the upper handle.

- Move lever forward for fast engine speed, starting, and for better grass bagging.
- Move lever backward for slow engine speed.
- Some models have engines equipped with a choke feature. Move the lever all the way forward to the choke position when starting a cold engine.



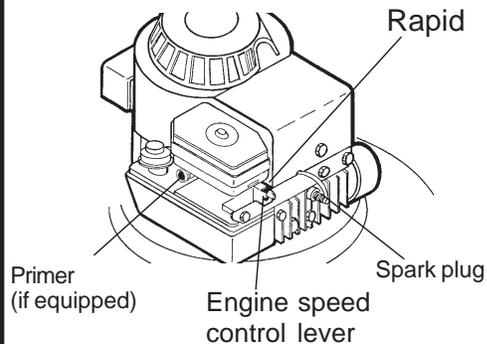
MODELS WITH ENGINE MOUNTED SPEED CONTROL

The engine speed is controlled by a lever located at the carburetor on the engine. High or fast position is for starting engine, normal cutting and better grass bagging. Low or slow position is for light cutting, trimming and fuel economy.

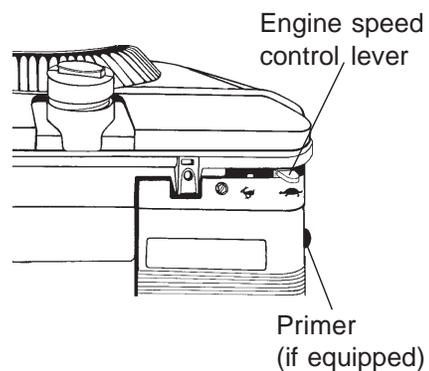
MODELS WITH FIXED SPEED ENGINES

Engine speed was set at the factory for optimum performance. Engine speed is not adjustable.

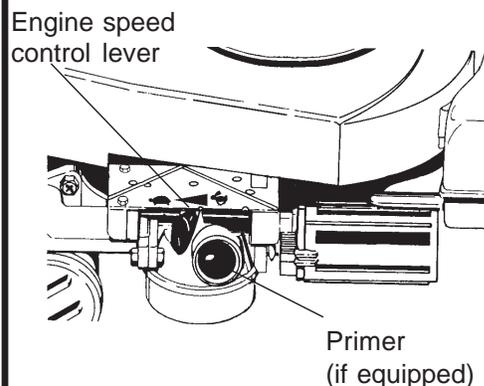
BRIGGS & STRATTON CLASSIC AND SPRINT ENGINE MOUNTED SPEED CONTROL



BRIGGS & STRATTON QUANTUM ENGINE MOUNTED SPEED CONTROL



TECUMSEH ENGINE MOUNTED SPEED CONTROL

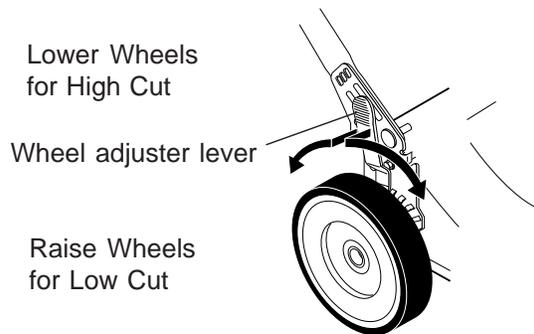


TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT

Adjust cutting height to suit your requirements. Medium position is best for most lawns. Raise wheels for low cut and lower wheels for high cut.

MODELS WITH MANUAL ADJUST SINGLE POINT

- All four wheels are adjusted by a single lever.
- Pull adjuster lever toward wheel. To raise mower, move lever forward to desired position. To lower mower, move the lever toward the rear.

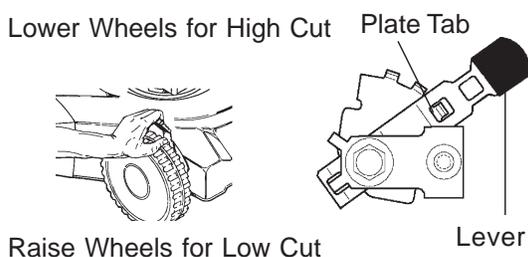


MODELS WITH "QUICK ADJUST" WHEEL HEIGHT ADJUSTERS

NOTE: For shipping purposes, the rear wheels on your lawn mower may not be adjusted to the same position as the front wheels. Before operating mower adjust all wheels to the same cutting height.

- Raise wheels for low cut and lower wheels for high cut.
- Adjust cutting height to suit your requirements. Medium position is best for most lawns.
- To change cutting height, squeeze adjuster lever toward wheel. Move wheel up or down to suit your requirements. Be sure all wheels are in the same setting.

NOTE: Adjuster is properly positioned when plate tab inserts into hole in lever. Also, 9-position adjusters (if so equipped) allow lever to be positioned between the plate tabs.



FOR MULCHING MOWERS ONLY

Most lawn mowers are shipped ready to be used as a mulcher.

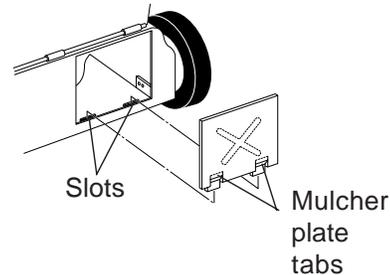
REAR DISCHARGE MOWERS

To convert to bagging or discharging, mulcher plate or plug (if so equipped) must be removed from the discharge opening of the lawn mower.

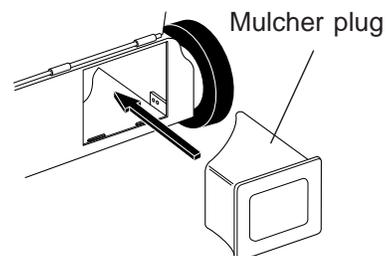
- Open rear door and remove mulcher plate or plug (if so equipped). Store mulcher plate or plug in a safe place.
- You can now install grass catcher or optional clipping deflector accessory.
- To return to mulching operation, install mulcher plate or plug into discharge opening of mower.

CAUTION: Do not run your lawn mower without mulcher plate/plug in place or approved clipping deflector or grass catcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with the rear door removed or propped open.

MULCHER PLATE TYPE



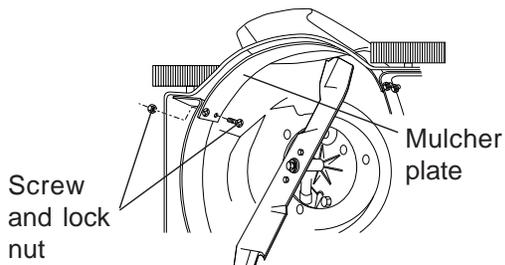
MULCHER PLUG TYPE



SIDE DISCHARGE MOWERS MULCHER PLATE TYPE

To convert to bagging or discharging, mulcher plate must be removed from underside of lawn mower.

- Remove the four (4) screws and lock nuts securing the mulcher plate to the mower.
- Store mulcher plate and hardware in a safe place.
- Mower can now be used for side discharging or optional grass catcher accessory can be attached.
- To return to mulching operation, simply reinstall mulcher plate and tighten hardware securely.

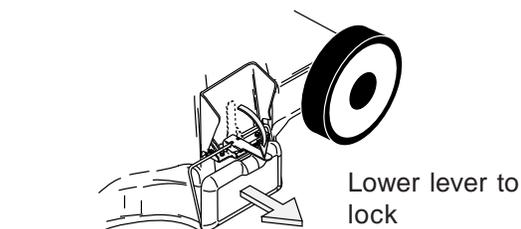
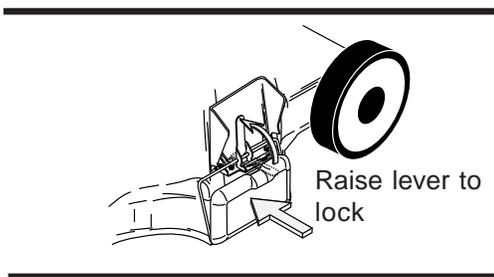
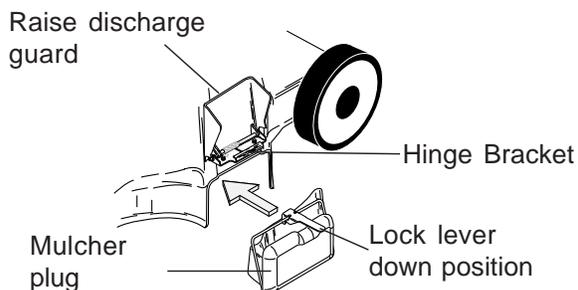


MULCHER PLUG TYPE A

To convert to mulching operation, mulcher plug must be installed into discharge opening of mower.

- Raise discharge guard and work mulcher plug into discharge opening of mower.
- Position lock lever over hinge bracket as shown and raise lever to lock mulcher plug in place.
- Allow discharge guard to rest against lock lever.
- To return to discharging or bagging operation, simply lower lock lever and remove mulcher plug from mower.

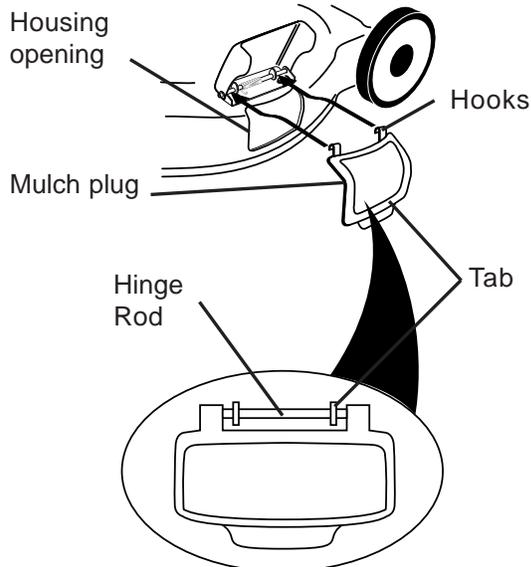
CAUTION: Do not run your lawn mower without discharge guard, approved grass catcher or mulcher plate or plug in place.



MULCHER PLUG TYPE B

To convert to mulching operation, mulcher plug must be installed into discharge opening of mower.

- Open discharge guard.
- Insert tab of mulch plug into housing opening.
- Align hooks of mulch plug over hinge rod of discharge guard. Push mulch plug down until mulch plug is seated in housing opening.

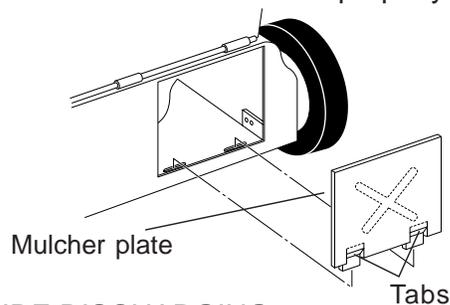


COMBI-CUT MOWERS TO CONVERT MOWER

Your lawn mower was shipped ready to be used as a mulcher. To convert to bagging or discharging:

REAR BAGGING

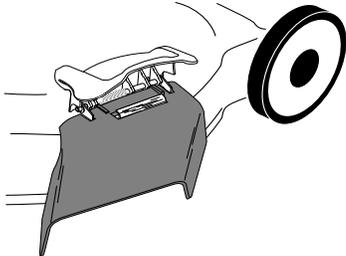
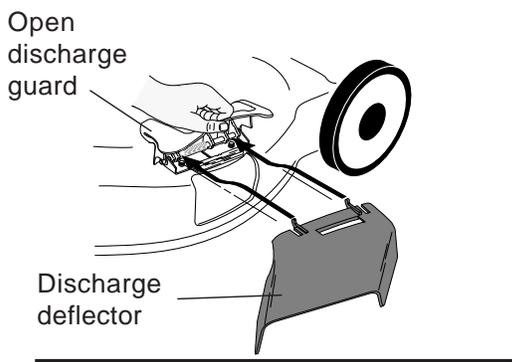
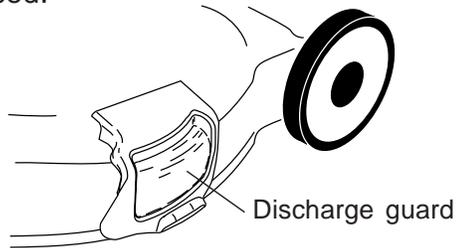
- Open rear door and remove mulcher plate. Store mulcher plate in a safe place.
- You can now install grass catcher.
- To convert to mulching or discharging operation, install mulcher plug into rear discharge opening of mower, making sure all tabs are seated properly.



SIDE DISCHARGING

- Mulcher plate must be installed into rear discharge opening of mower (see above instructions).

- Open discharge guard and install discharge deflector under guard as shown.
- Mower is now ready for discharging operation.
- To convert to mulching or bagging operation, discharge deflector must be removed and discharge guard must be closed.



SIMPLE STEPS TO REMEMBER WHEN CONVERTING YOUR LAWN MOWER

FOR MULCHING -

- Rear mulcher plate installed.
- Side discharge guard closed.

FOR REAR BAGGING -

- Rear mulcher plate removed.
- Grass catcher installed.
- Side discharge guard closed.

FOR SIDE DISCHARGING -

- Rear mulcher plate installed.
- Side discharge deflector installed.

⚠CAUTION: Do not run your lawn mower without rear mulcher plate in place or approved grass catcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with the rear door removed or propped open.

GRASS CATCHER (REAR DISCHARGE MODELS ONLY) TO EMPTY GRASS CATCHER

- Simply open rear door and lift grass catcher up and away from mower.

NOTE: Do not drag the bag when emptying. It will cause unnecessary wear.

⚠CAUTION: Under normal usage, the catcher material is subject to deterioration and wear and should, therefore, be checked frequently for replacement. Any replacement catcher should be checked to ensure compliance with original manufacturer's specifications.

⚠CAUTION: Do not run lawn mower without the discharge guard (rear door), approved grass catcher or clipping deflector in place. Never attempt to operate mower with the discharge guard (rear door) removed or propped open.

OPERATOR PRESENCE ENGINE CONTROL BAR

Your lawn mower is equipped with an operator presence engine control bar which requires the operator to be positioned behind the lawn mower handle in order to start and operate the lawn mower.

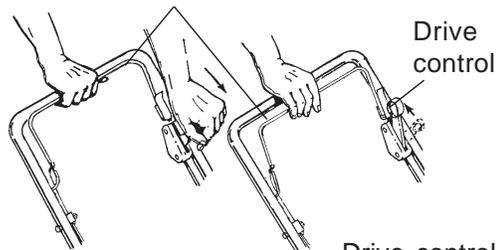
CAUTION: Federal regulations require an engine control to be installed on this lawn mower in order to minimize the risk of blade contact injury. Do not under any circumstances attempt to defeat the function of the operator control. The blade turns when the engine is running.

DRIVE CONTROL

FRONT WHEEL DRIVE

- Self-propelling is controlled by holding the operator presence control bar down to the handle and pushing the drive control lever forward until it clicks; then releasing the lever.
- Forward motion will stop when the operator presence control bar is released. To stop forward motion without stopping engine, release the operator presence control bar slightly until the drive control disengages. Hold operator presence control bar down against handle to continue mowing without self-propelling.
- To keep drive control engaged when turning corners, push down on handle and lift front wheels off ground while turning lawn mower.

Operator presence control bar



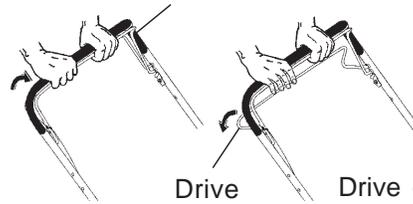
To engage drive control

Drive control disengaged

REAR WHEEL DRIVE (SINGLE SPEED)

- To start forward motion, lift drive control bar up to handle.
- To stop forward motion, release drive control bar.

Operator presence control bar



To engage drive control

Drive control bar

Drive control disengaged

REAR WHEEL DRIVE (MULTI-SPEED)

Your lawn mower provides multiple speeds to let you select the speed that suits you best.

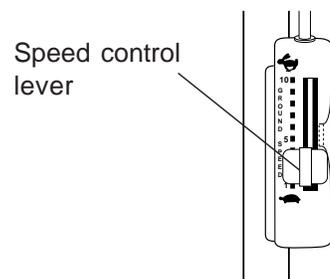
- Lower speeds are for slow, heavy/thick grass cutting or trimming.
- Medium speeds are for normal grass cutting or trimming.
- High is for light cutting and for ground transport.

NOTE: Do not move speed control lever unless the engine is running

TO OPERATE DRIVE SYSTEM

- With engine running, select ground speed by moving speed control lever to desired position.
- To start forward motion, pull drive control bar back against handle.
- To stop forward motion, release drive control bar.

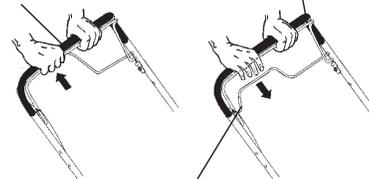
IMPORTANT: Always keep drive control bar fully engaged against handle when in use.



Speed control lever

Operator presence control bar

Drive control engaged



Drive control disengaged

BEFORE STARTING ENGINE

Read the engine manual packed with your mower.

FILL ENGINE WITH OIL

Your lawn mower is shipped without oil in the engine.

- Be sure mower is level and area around oil fill is clean.
- Remove engine oil filler plug (oil fill cap/dipstick on models so equipped).
- Slowly add oil. For type and grade of oil to use, see "ENGINE" in Maintenance section of this manual.
- Fill to the top of slot in filler hole (to "FULL" line on dipstick on models so equipped). Do not overfill.
- Replace plug (oil fill cap/dipstick on models so equipped) and tighten.
- Check oil level before each use. Add oil as needed.
- To change oil, see Maintenance section of this manual.

FILL GASOLINE TANK

- Fill gasoline tank with fresh, clean, unleaded gasoline. **DO NOT USE PREMIUM GASOLINE. BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVERFILL TANK.**

WARNING: Experience indicates that alcohol blended fuels (called gasohol or using ethanol or methanol) can attract moisture which leads to separation and formation of acids during storage. Acidic gas can damage the fuel system of an engine while in storage. To avoid engine problems, the fuel system should be emptied before storage of 30 days or longer. Drain the fuel tank, start the engine and let it run until fuel lines and carburetor are empty. Use fresh fuel next season. See Storage Instructions for additional information. Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.

TO START ENGINE

CAUTION: The mower blade rotates whenever the engine is running.

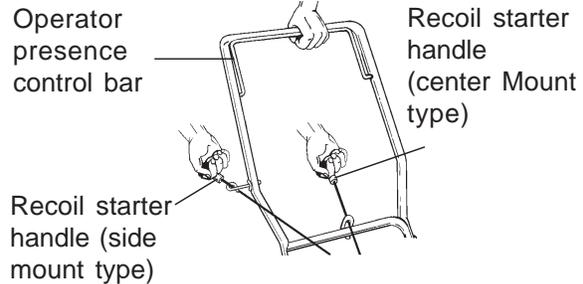
MODELS WITH RECOIL STARTER

- Move engine speed control to fast position or to choke/start position on models so equipped with choke feature.
- If your mower has a primer, to start a cold engine, push primer the number of times as instructed in the engine manual packed with your mower. Use a firm push. This step is not usually necessary

when starting an engine which has already run for a few minutes.

- Hold operator presence control bar down against handle.
- Pull starter handle quickly. Do not allow starter rope to snap back.
- For engines equipped with choke, slowly move engine speed control lever to fast after engine starts.
- To STOP engine, release operator presence engine control bar.

NOTE: For engines with a primer, it may be necessary to repeat priming steps in cooler weather. In warmer weather, overpriming may cause flooding and engine will not start. If you do flood engine, wait a few minutes before attempting to start and **DO NOT** repeat priming steps.



MODELS WITH ELECTRIC STARTER

- Move engine speed control to fast position or to choke/start position on models so equipped with choke feature.
- If your mower has a primer, to start a cold engine, push primer the number of times as instructed in the engine manual packed with your mower. Use a firm push. This step is not usually necessary when starting an engine which has already run for a few minutes.

- Hold operator presence control bar down against handle.
- Push the engine start button.

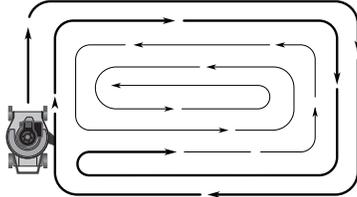
IMPORTANT: Do not crank engine more than five continuous seconds between each time you try to start. Wait 5 to 10 seconds between each attempt.

- For engines equipped with choke, slowly move engine speed control lever to fast after engine starts.
- To STOP engine, release operator presence engine control bar.

NOTE: For engines with a primer, it may be necessary to repeat priming steps in cooler weather. In warmer weather, overpriming may cause flooding and engine will not start. If you do flood engine, wait a few minutes before attempting to start and **DO NOT** repeat priming steps.

MOWING TIPS

- For most cutting conditions and better bagging performance, the engine speed should be set in the fast position.
- Under certain conditions, such as when mowing very tall grass, raise the mower height on the first cut to reduce pushing effort, to avoid overheating the engine, and to avoid leaving clumps of grass clippings. Make the second cut to the desired height.
- For extremely heavy cutting, reduce the width of cut.
- For side discharge lawn mowers, cut in a counterclockwise direction, starting at the outside of the area to be cut, in order to spread grass clippings more evenly and to put less load on the engine. To keep clippings off of walkways, flower beds, etc., make the first cuts in a clockwise direction.

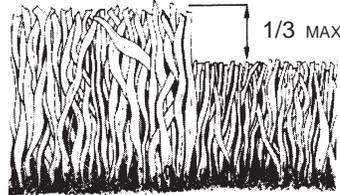


- When using a rear discharge lawn mower in moist, heavy grass, clumps of cut grass may not enter the grass catcher. Reduce ground speed (pushing speed) and/or run the lawn mower over the area a second time.
- If a trail of grass clipping is left on the right side of a rear discharge lawn mower, mow in a clockwise direction with a small overlap to collect the clippings on the next pass.
- Pores in cloth grass catchers can become filled with dirt and dust with use and the catcher will collect less grass. To prevent this, regularly hose catcher off with water and let dry before use.

MULCHING MOWING TIPS (IF SO EQUIPPED)

IMPORTANT: For best performance, keep mower housing free of built-up grass and trash. See “Cleaning” in Maintenance section of this manual.

- The special mulching blade will recut the grass clippings many times and reduce them in size so that as they fall onto the lawn they will disperse into the grass and not be noticed. Also, the mulched grass will biodegrade quickly to provide nutrients for the lawn. Always mulch with your highest engine (blade) speed as this will provide the best recutting action of the blades.
- Avoid cutting your lawn when it is wet. Wet grass tends to form clumps and interferes with the mulching action. The best time to mow your lawn is the early afternoon. At this time the grass has dried and the newly cut area will not be exposed to the direct sun.
- For best results, adjust the lawn mower cutting height so that the lawn mower cuts off only the top one-third of the grass blades. If the lawn is overgrown it will be necessary to raise the height of cut to reduce pushing effort and to keep from overloading the engine and leaving clumps of mulched grass. For extremely heavy mulching, reduce your width of cut by overlapping previously cut path and mow slowly.



- Certain types of grass and grass conditions may require that an area be mulched a second time to completely hide the clippings. When doing a second cut, mow across or perpendicular to the first cut path.
- Change your cutting pattern from week to week. Mow north to south one week then change to east to west the next week. This will help prevent matting and graining of the lawn.

MAINTENANCE

| MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE | | SERVICE DATES | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| FILL IN DATES AS YOU COMPLETE REGULAR SERVICE | | BEFORE EACH USE | AFTER EACH USE | EVERY 10 HOURS | EVERY 25 HOURS OR EVERY SEASON | BEFORE STORAGE | | | | | |
| M O W E R | Check for Loose Fasteners | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Clean/Inspect Grass Catcher (If Equipped) | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Clean Lawn Mower | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Clean Under Drive Cover (Power-Propelled Mowers) | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Check drive belt/pulleys (Power-Propelled Mowers) | | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | Check/Sharpen/Replace Blade | | | | ✓ ³ | | | | | | |
| | Lubrication Chart | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Clean Battery/Recharge (Electric Start Mowers) | | | | ✓ | ✓ ⁴ | | | | | |
| E N G I N E | Check Engine Oil Level | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| | Change Engine Oil | | | | ✓ ^{1,2} | | | | | | |
| | Clean Air Filter | | | | ✓ ² | | | | | | |
| | Inspect Muffler | | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | Clean or Replace Spark Plug | | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | Replace Air Filter Paper Cartridge | | | | ✓ ² | | | | | | |

- 1 - Change more often when operating under a heavy load or in high ambient temperatures.
- 2 - Service more often when operating in dirty or dusty conditions.
- 3 - Replace blades more often when mowing in sandy soil.
- 4 - Charge 48 hours at end of season.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The warranty on this lawn mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from the warranty, operator must maintain mower as instructed in this manual.

Some adjustments will need to be made periodically to properly maintain your unit. All adjustments in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual should be checked at least once each season.

- Once a year, replace the spark plug, clean or replace air filter element, and check blade for wear. A new spark plug and clean/new air filter element assure proper air-fuel mixture and help your engine run better and last longer.
- Follow the Maintenance Schedule in this manual.

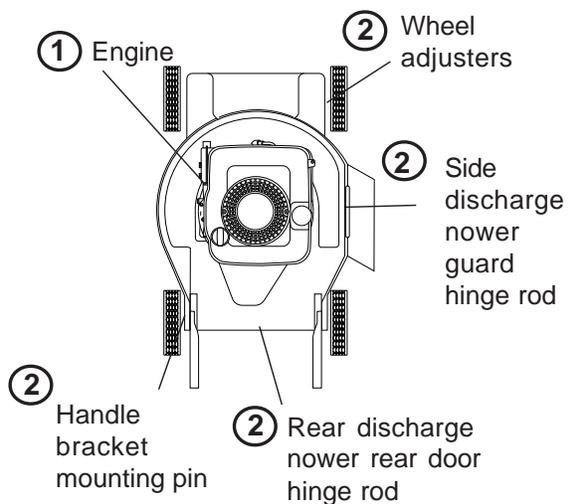
BEFORE EACH USE

- Check engine oil level.
- Check for loose fasteners.

LUBRICATION

Keep unit well lubricated.

LUBRICATION CHART



- ① Refer to Maintenance section
- ② Spray Lubricant

IMPORTANT: Do not oil or grease plastic wheel bearings. viscous lubricants will attract dust and dirt that will shorten the life of the self-lubricating bearings. if you feel they must be lubricated, use only a dry, powdered graphite type lubricant sparingly.

LAWN MOWER

Always observe safety rules when performing any maintenance.

TIRES

- Keep tires free of gasoline, oil, or insect control chemicals which can harm rubber.
- Avoid stumps, stones, deep ruts, sharp objects and other hazards that may cause tire damage.

BLADE CARE

For best results, mower blade must be kept sharp. Replace bent or damaged blades.

TO REPLACE BLADE

- Turn lawn mower. See engine manual for proper direction of turning over the engine.
- Use a wood block between blade and mower housing to prevent blade from turning when removing blade bolt.
- Protect your hands with gloves and/or wrap blade with heavy cloth.
- Remove blade bolt, lock washer and flat washer.
- Remove blade and blade adapter.
- Inspect the key inside blade adapter. Replace adapter if damaged.

IMPORTANT: Blade bolt is grade 8 heat treated.

- Install new or sharpened blade with trailing edge up toward the engine.
- Position blade on blade adapter. Align the two (2) holes in blade with raised lugs of adapter.
- Reassemble blade bolt, lock washer and flat washer into blade adapter and crankshaft in exact order as shown.
- Position block of wood between blade and mower housing.
- Tighten blade bolt securely. Recommended tightening torque is 35-40 ft. lbs.

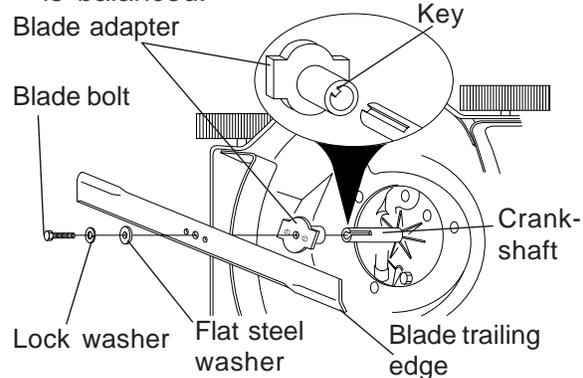
NOTE: We do not recommend sharpening blade - but if you do, be sure the blade is balanced.

TO SHARPEN BLADE

Care should be taken to keep the blade balanced. An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration and eventual damage to lawn mower and engine.

- The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen while on the mower.

- To check blade balance, drive a nail into a beam or wall. Leave about one inch of the straight nail exposed. Place center hole of blade over the head of the nail. If blade is balanced, it should remain in a horizontal position. If either end of the blade moves downward, sharpen the heavy end until the blade is balanced.



DRIVE COVER

Clean under the drive cover at least twice a season. Scrape underside of cover with a putty knife or similar tool to remove any buildup of trash or grass.

GEAR CASE (Gear drive models)

- To keep your drive system working properly, the gear case and area around the drive should be kept clean and free of trash build-up. Clean under the drive cover twice a season.
- The gear case is filled with lubricant to the proper level at the factory. The only time the lubricant needs attention is if service has been performed on the gear case.
- If lubricant is required, use only Texaco Starplex Premium 1 Grease, Part No. 750369. Do not substitute.

DRIVE WHEELS

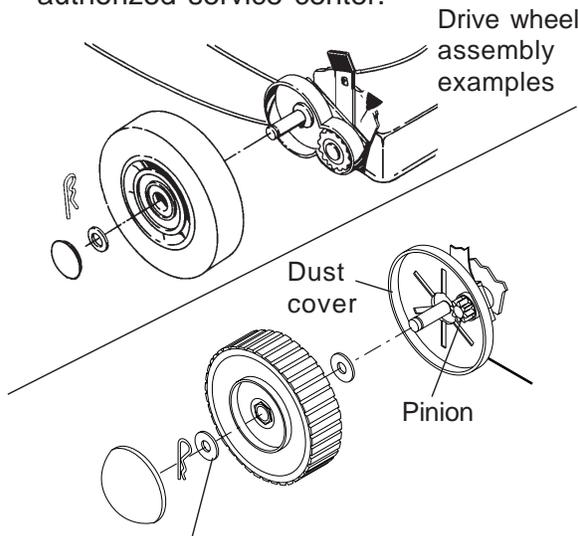
Check front drive wheels each time before you mow to be sure they move freely. The wheels not turning freely means trash, grass cuttings, etc. are in the drive wheel area and must be cleaned to free drive wheels.

If necessary to clean the drive wheels, check both front wheels.

- Remove hubcaps (if equipped), hairpin cotter and washers or flange locknut (if equipped with threaded axle) from both drive wheels.
- Remove wheels from wheel adjusters.
- Remove any trash or grass cuttings

from inside the dust cover, pinion and/or drive wheel gear teeth.

- Put wheels back in place.
- If after cleaning, the drive wheels do not turn freely, contact your nearest authorized service center.



Flange locknut (If equipped)

ENGINE

Read the maintenance section of your engine manual.

LUBRICATION

Change the oil after the first two hours of operation and every 25 hours thereafter or at least once a year if the lawn mower is not used for 25 hours in one year.

Refer to engine manual.

TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL (SEE ENGINE MANUAL)

- Be sure lawn mower is on level surface.
- Oil will drain more freely when warm.
- Catch oil in a suitable container.
- For engines without dipstick, remove bottom oil drain plug.
- For engines with oil fill cap/dipstick, remove bottom drain plug or remove engine oil cap and turn mower on its side.
- After oil has drained completely, replace oil drain plug and tighten securely.
- Refill engine with oil. Pour slowly. Do not overfill.
- Fill to top of slot inside of filler hole or to "FULL" line on dipstick on models so equipped. Keep oil at proper level.

AIR FILTER

Your engine will not run properly and may be damaged by using a dirty air filter. Clean the element after every 25 hours of operation, more often if lawn mower is used in very dusty, dirty conditions.

See the maintenance section of your engine manual.

SPARK PLUG

Change the spark plug once a year to make the engine run better and easier to start. Set spark plug gap according to engine manual specifications.

MUFFLER

Inspect and replace corroded muffler as it could create a fire hazard and/or damage.

CLEANING

IMPORTANT: For best performance, keep mower housing free of grass build-up and trash. Clean the underside of your mower after each use.

- Clean the underside of your lawn mower by scraping to remove buildup of grass and trash.
- Clean engine often to keep trash from accumulating. A clogged engine runs hotter and shortens engine life.
- Keep finished surfaces and wheels free of all gasoline, oil, etc.

We do not recommend using a garden hose to clean your lawn mower unless the electrical system, muffler, air filter, and carburetor are covered to keep water out. Water in engine can shorten engine life.

GRASS CATCHER (IF SO EQUIPPED)

Grass catcher may be hosed with water but must be dry when used.

CAUTION: Under normal usage, the catcher material is subject to deterioration and wear and should therefore be checked to ensure compliance with original manufacturer specifications.

SERVICE AND ADJUSTMENTS

⚠CAUTION: Before performing any service or adjustments-

- Release operator presence control bar.
- Make sure the blade and all moving parts have completely stopped.
- Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place where it cannot come in contact with plug.

LAWN MOWER

TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT

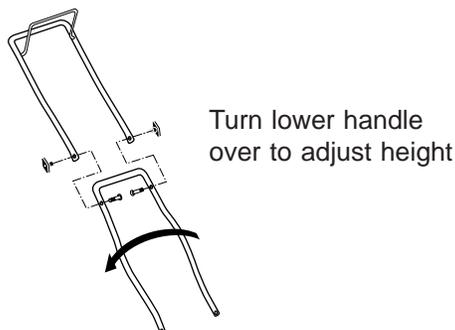
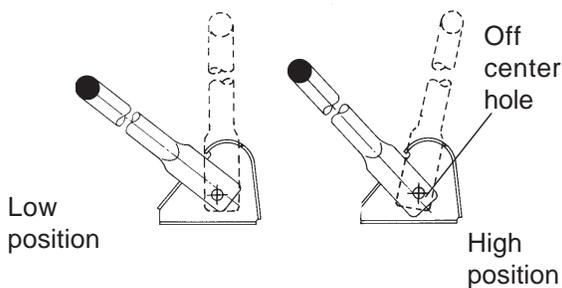
See "TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT" in the Operation section of this manual.

TO ADJUST HANDLE

2 POSITION

The handle can be mounted in a high or low position. The mounting holes in the bottom of lower handle are off center for raising or lowering the handle.

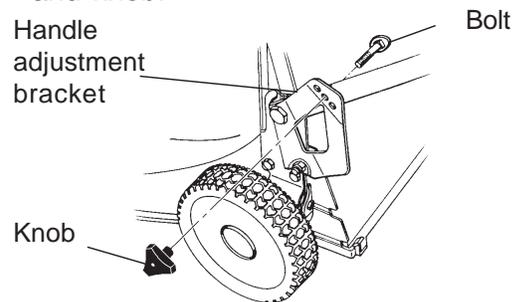
- Remove upper handle and all parts attached to lower handle.
- Remove hairpin cotters from lower handle bracket mounting pin.
- Squeeze lower handle in to remove it from mounting pins.
- Turn lower handle over to raise or lower handle.
- Squeeze lower handle in and position holes onto mounting pins on handle bracket.
- Reassemble hairpin cotters onto mounting pins.
- Reassemble upper handle and all parts removed from lower handle.



3 POSITION BOLT

The handle on your lawn mower has three (3) height positions - adjust to height that suits you.

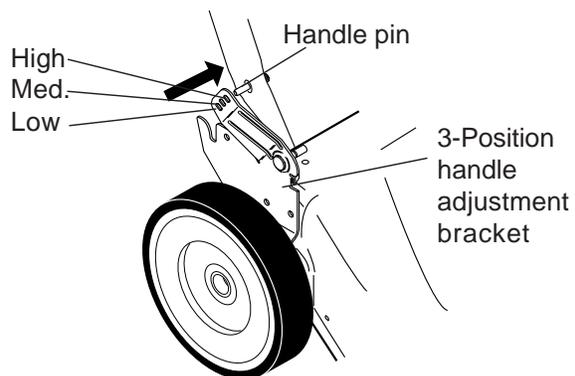
- Remove knob and carriage bolt on one side of the lower handle.
- While holding handle assembly, remove knob and carriage bolt from opposite side, align hole in handle with desired hole in handle bracket and reassemble bolt and knob and tighten securely.
- Align opposite side of handle with same positioning hole and secure with bolt and knob.



3 POSITION QUICK

The handle on your lawn mower has three (3) height positions - adjust to height that suits you.

- Squeeze the bottom ends of lower handle towards each other until the pin in handle can be inserted into one of the three height adjustment holes.

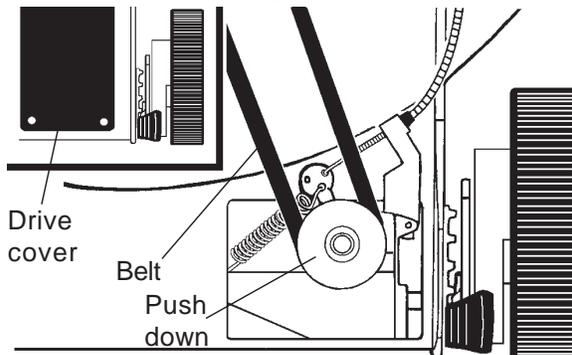


REAR DEFLECTOR (IF EQUIPPED)

The rear deflector, attached between the rear wheels of your mower, is provided to minimize the possibility that objects will be thrown out of the rear of the mower into the operator mowing position. If the deflector becomes damaged, it should be replaced.

TO REMOVE/REPLACE DRIVE BELT

- Remove drive cover. Remove belt from gearcase pulley by pushing down on pulley and rolling belt off it.
- Turn lawn mower on its side with air filter and carburetor up.
- Remove blade.
- Remove debris shield.
- Remove belt from engine pulley on crankshaft.
- Install new belt by reversing above steps.
- Always use factory approved belt to assure fit and long life.



TO REMOVE/REPLACE DRIVE BELT

- Remove drive cover by removing screw at rear of cover.
- Remove belt from drive pulley.
- Remove hubcaps and nuts from both drive wheels. Remove wheels and washers from wheel adjusters.
- At left drive wheel only, remove E-ring, pinion, roll pin, felt washer and dust cover.
- Remove retainer clip from drive shaft on left side of driven pulley.
- While holding pulley slide drive shaft to the right until belt can be removed from opening in housing.
- Pull belt free from idler pulley and take out of clutch frame.
- Reverse procedure to install new belt.

NOTE: When re-assembling pinion, be sure that the felt washer is in place behind the roll pin and that the roll pin is seated in the slots on the bearing and in the back of the pinion.

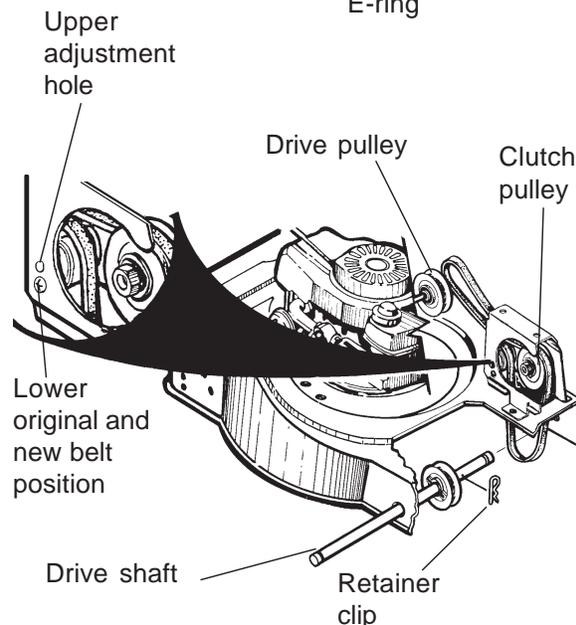
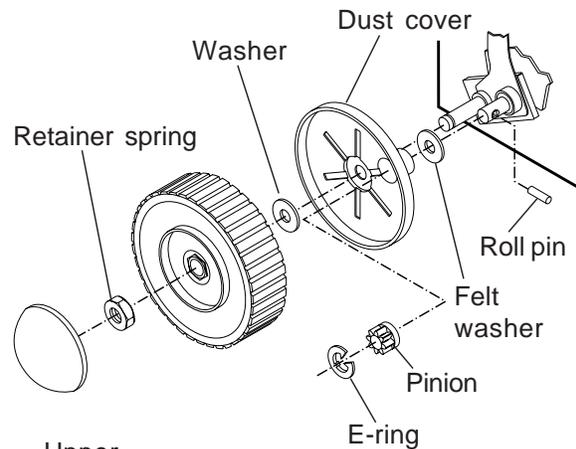
DRIVE BELT ADJUSTMENT

A misadjusted belt will wear faster. Be sure to keep belt properly adjusted.

- After prolonged use and drive belt has worn, if the clutch lever has reached the top of the slot in the clutch frame and

the belt is still loose, move adjustable idler pulley to upper hole in clutch frame.

NOTE: When installing a new belt, adjustable idler pulley must be returned to lower hole (original position) in clutch frame.



ENGINE CARBURETOR

The carburetor has been preset at the factory and adjustment should not be necessary. However, minor adjustment may be required to compensate for differences in fuel, temperature, altitude or load.

- The air filter must be assembled to the carburetor when running engine.
- Best carburetor adjustment is obtained when fuel tank is 1/4 full.
- In order for the engine to run, the operator presence control bar must be held in the operating position. Therefore, an assistant will be required to

hold the control bar in the operating position when making final adjustment to the carburetor.

See the adjustment section of your engine manual for further instructions.

ENGINE SPEED

The engine speed has been factory set. Do not attempt to increase engine speed as it may result in personal injury. If you

believe the engine is running too fast or too slow, take your lawn mower to an authorized engine service center for repair and adjustment.

THROTTLE CONTROL

If it becomes necessary to adjust or replace the throttle control, see the adjustment section of your engine manual.

STORAGE

Immediately prepare your lawn mower for storage at the end of the season or if the unit will not be used for 30 days or more.

CAUTION: Never store the lawn mower with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.

LAWN MOWER

When lawn mower is to be stored for a period of time, clean it thoroughly, remove all dirt, grease, leaves, etc. Store in a clean, dry area.

- Clean entire lawn mower (See "CLEANING" in the Maintenance section of this manual).
- Lubricate as shown in the Maintenance section of this manual.
- Be sure that all nuts, bolts, screws, and pins are securely fastened. Inspect moving parts for damage, breakage and wear. Replace if necessary.
- Touch up all rusted or chipped paint surfaces; sand lightly before painting.

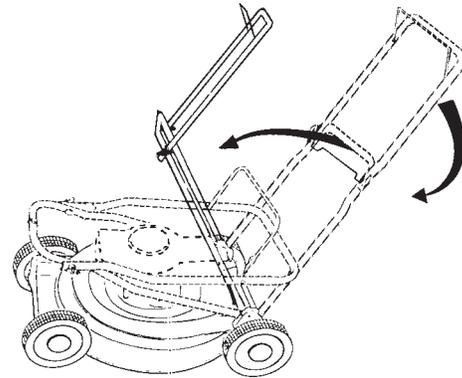
HANDLE

Your handle may be folded for storage as shown.

- Squeeze the bottom ends of lower handle towards each other until handle clears the handle brackets and swing handles forward over mower.
- Loosen upper handle mounting hardware enough to allow upper handle to be folded back.

IMPORTANT: When folding handles for storage or transportation, be sure to fold handles as shown or you may damage the control cables.

When setting you handles up from the storage position, the lower handle will automatically lock into mowing position.



ENGINE

FUEL SYSTEM

IMPORTANT: It is important to prevent gum deposits from forming in essential fuel system parts such as carburetor, fuel filter, fuel hose, or tank during storage. Also, experience indicates that alcohol blended fuels (called gasohol or using ethanol or methanol) can attract moisture which leads to separation and formation of acids during storage. Acidic gas can damage the fuel system of an engine while in storage.

- Drain the fuel tank.
- Start the engine and let it run until the fuel lines and carburetor are empty.
- Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.
- Use fresh fuel next season.

NOTE: Fuel stabilizer is an acceptable alternative in minimizing the formation of fuel gum deposits during storage. Add stabilizer to gasoline in fuel tank or storage container. Always follow the mix ratio found on stabilizer container. Run engine at least 10 minutes after adding stabilizer to allow the stabilizer to reach the carburetor. Do not drain the gas tank and carburetor if using fuel stabilizer.

ENGINE OIL

Drain oil (with engine warm) and replace with clean oil. (See "ENGINE" in the Maintenance section of this manual).

CYLINDER

- Remove spark plug.
- Pour one ounce (29 ml) of oil through spark plug hole into cylinder.
- Pull starter handle slowly to distribute oil.
- Replace with new spark plug.

BATTERY (IF EQUIPPED)

Disconnect the battery from the engine connector and charge battery 48 hours.

OTHER

- Do not store gasoline from one season to another.
- Replace your gasoline can if your can starts to rust. Rust and/or dirt in your gasoline will cause problems.
- If possible, store your unit indoors and cover it to give protection from dust and dirt.
- Cover your unit with a suitable protective cover that does not retain moisture. Do not use plastic. Plastic cannot breathe which allows condensation to form and will cause your unit to rust.

IMPORTANT: Never cover mower while engine and exhaust areas are still warm.

⚠CAUTION: Never store the lawn mower with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.

TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

| PROBLEM | CAUSE | CORRECTION |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Does not start | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dirty air filter. 2. Out of fuel. 3. Stale fuel. 4. Water in fuel. 5. Spark plug wire is disconnected. 6. Bad spark plug. 7. Loose blade or broken blade adapter. 8. Control bar in released position. 9. Control bar defective. 10. Weak Battery 11. Disconnected battery connector. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean/replace air filter. 2. Fill fuel tank. 3. Drain tank and refill with fresh clean fuel. 4. Drain fuel tank and carburetor and refill tank with fresh gasoline. 5. Connect wire to plug. 6. Replace spark plug. 7. Tighten blade bolt or replace blade adapter. 8. Depress control bar to handle. 9. Replace control bar. 10. Charge battery. 11. Connect battery to engine. |
| Loss of power | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rear of lawn mower housing or cutting blade dragging in heavy grass. 2. Cutting too much grass. 3. Dirty air filter. 4. Buildup of grass, leaves, and trash under mower. 5. Too much oil in engine. 6. Walking speed too fast. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set to "Higher Cut" position. 2. Set to "Higher Cut" position. 3. Clean/replace air filter. 4. Clean underside of mower housing. 5. Check oil level. 6. Cut at slower walking speed. |
| Poor cut – uneven | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worn, bent or loose blade. 2. Wheel heights uneven. 3. Low engine speed 4. Buildup of grass, leaves and trash under mower. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt. 2. Set all wheels at same height 3. Contact an authorized center/department 4. Clean underside of mower housing. |

TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

| PROBLEM | CAUSE | CORRECTION |
|---|---|---|
| Excessive vibration | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worn, bent or loose blade. 2. Bent engine crankshaft. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt. 2. Contact an authorized service center. |
| Starter rope hard to pull | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engine flywheel brake is on when control bar is released. 2. Bent engine crankshaft. 3. Blade adapter broken. 4. Blade dragging in grass. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Depress control bar to upper handle before pulling starter rope. 2. Contact an authorized service center. 3. Replace blade adapter. 4. Move lawn mower to cut grass or to hard surface. |
| Loss of drive | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drive wheels not turning with drive control engaged. 2. Belt not driving | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjust or replace drive control cable. 2. Put belt on pulleys or replace belts if broken. |
| Grass catcher not filling (if so equipped) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cutting height too low. 2. Lift on blade worn off. 3. Catcher not venting air. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise cutting height. 2. Replace blade. 3. Clean grass catcher. |
| Hard to push | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grass is too high or wheel height is too low. 2. Rear of lawn mower housing or blade dragging in grass. 3. Grass catcher too full. 4. Handle height position not right for you. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise cutting height. 2. Raise rear of lawn mower housing one (1) setting higher. 3. Empty grass catcher. 4. Adjust handle height to suit. |