



555 TRACTOR OPERATOR'S MANUAL

42055507

Reprinted



VERSATILE FARM EQUIPMENT COMPANY

A division of Versatile Corporation

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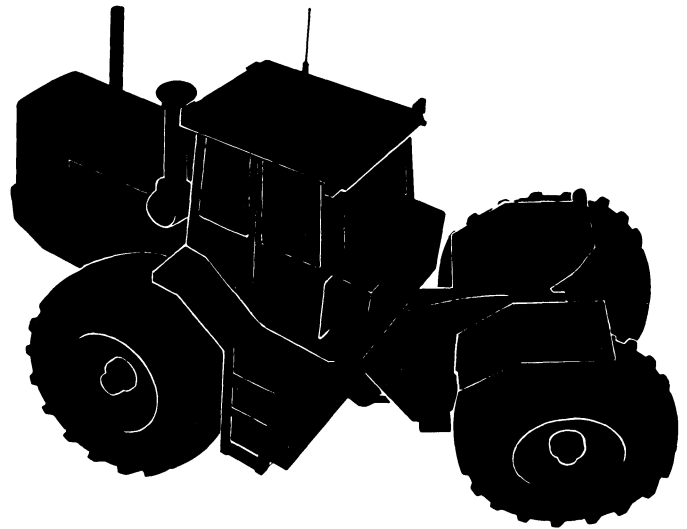
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 **VERSATILE**

555 Tractor

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Serial Number Location

IMPORTANT

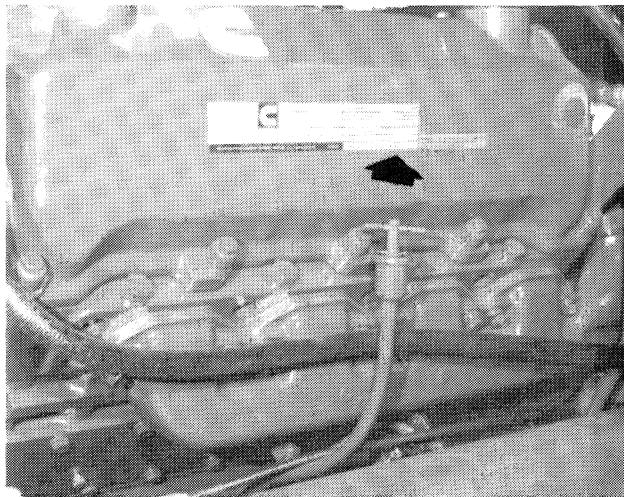
To obtain the fastest service when ordering parts, always remember to:

- 1. Order part by correct number
- 2. State machine model and year
- 3. Include serial number of tractor, engine and frame

ENGINE

Serial number is on a metal tag on the engine's left-hand cylinder bank.

SERIAL

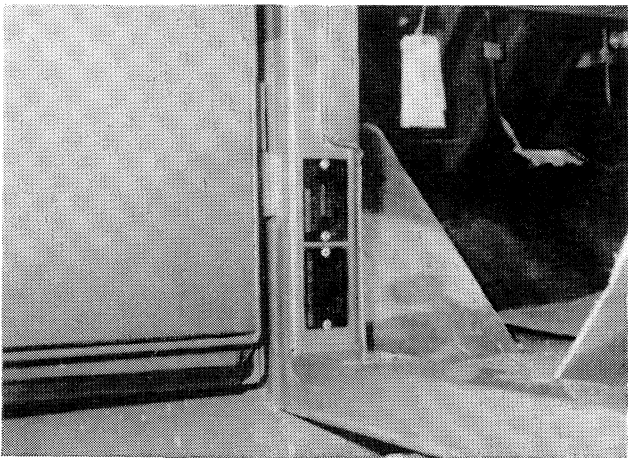


Engine Plate

TRACTOR

Serial number is on a metal tag on the bottom of the cab door frame.

SERIAL

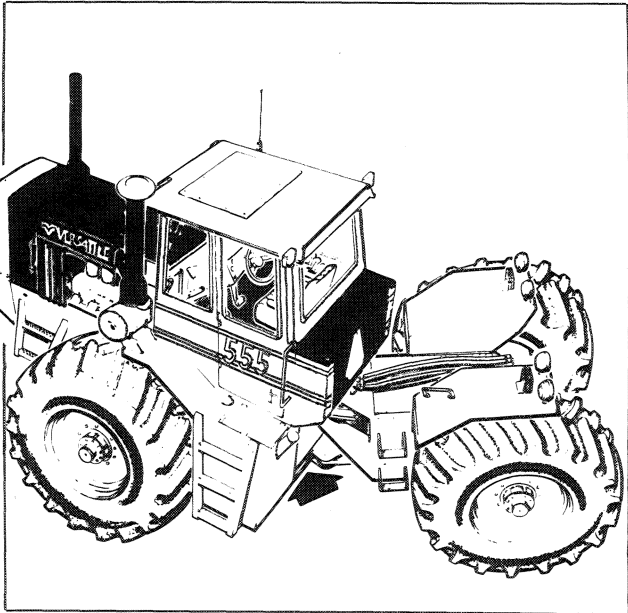


Tractor Plate

FRAME

Serial number is stamped on front frame rear.

SERIAL



Frame Stamp

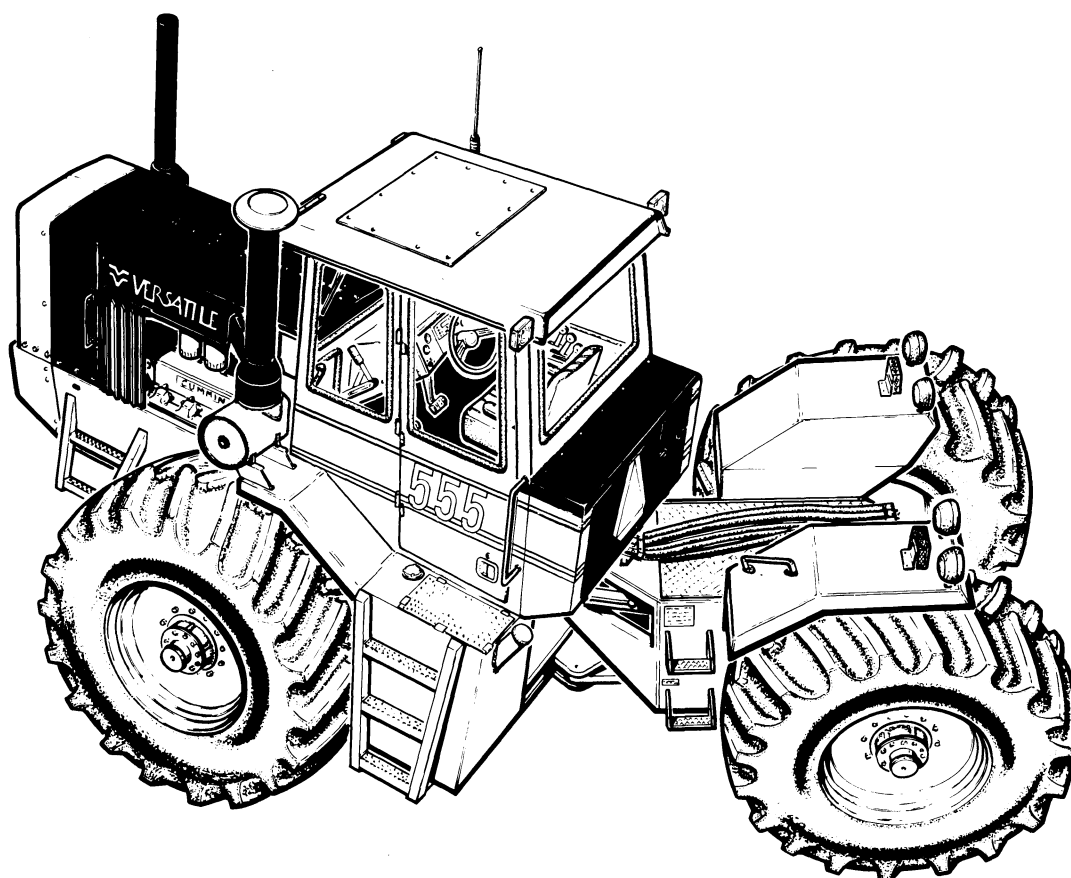
Introduction

We at Versatile Farm Equipment Company are pleased you have chosen a VERSATILE® 555 Four-Wheel Drive Tractor for your farming operation. It has evolved through the ideas and suggestions submitted to us by customers such as yourself.

We ask that you study this manual and adopt the preventive maintenance program outlined in it. The suggested schedule has been designed to meet most operating conditions although it may be necessary to adjust your maintenance program to suit your specific operating conditions.

We ask that for engine maintenance not covered by this manual, you follow the instructions given in the Cummins Manual. Before putting the tractor in service, become familiar with all the procedures described in both manuals.

Your Versatile dealer is factory-trained to provide genuine parts and professional repair service. Consult him for all your service needs.





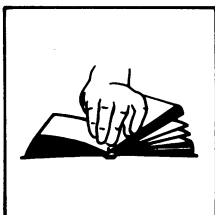
Watch for this symbol. It identifies potential hazards to health or personal safety. It points out safety precautions. It means: **ATTENTION – Be Alert.** Your safety is involved.



1 Safety

National Safety Council statistics tell us that many people die or suffer serious injury needlessly each year as a result of farm accidents.

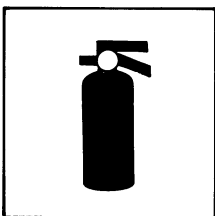
Don't become a statistic or a victim. Carefully review the procedures given in this manual with all operators **ANNUALLY**. It is important that all operators be familiar with, **AND FOLLOW**, safety precautions.



Operating instructions must be given to everyone using the Model 555 Tractor before operation and at least once yearly thereafter in compliance with OSHA Regulation 1928.57.

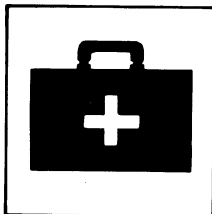
GENERAL SAFETY

1. Never allow an unauthorized driver to operate tractor.
2. Keep a fire extinguisher in the cab. Maintain it and be familiar with its use.



3. Never carry passengers.
4. Never operate machine in a closed building.
5. Always keep sleeves, jackets or other clothing relatively tight and belted, since loose clothes might catch in moving parts.

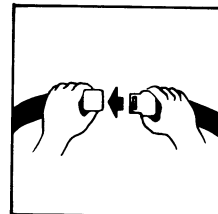
6. Provide a first aid kit for use in case of accident.



7. Never jump from tractor. There is a danger of catching clothing on protruding parts.

8. Use steps and handhold when mounting and dismounting tractor or for servicing components to high to reach from the ground.

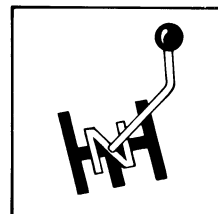
9. Fasten seat belt before starting engine.



10. Safety devices are intended to protect operators of Versatile equipment from injury or death. Under no circumstances should they ever be disabled or removed.

OPERATING SAFETY

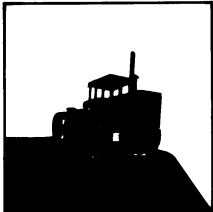
1. Always operate tractor from the operator's seat.
2. Lock seat in position before operating tractor.
3. Always start tractor with range select and gearshift levers in neutral and PTO clutch disengaged.



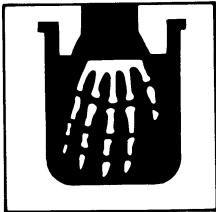
4. Always wait until all warning lights and buzzer go out before putting tractor into gear.
5. Never oil, grease or adjust tractor while it is moving. Do not leave engine running while tractor or drawn equipment is being adjusted, repaired or cleaned.
6. Ensure parkbrake is set when tractor is stopped. Tractor can freewheel even when in gear.
7. Avoid abrupt turns, starts or stops.
8. Keep all safety shields in place when operating tractor.

9. Do not operate tractor when you are tired. Take a rest.
10. Never operate tractor at high speeds in crowded areas. Damage to machine and injury to operator or bystanders may result.
11. Do not start engine by shorting across starter terminals. Tractor will move when starting safety switch is bypassed.


SAFE OPERATION IN ROUGH TERRAIN

1. Drive tractor slowly on hillsides and curves to eliminate the danger of tipping. Avoid slopes which are too steep for safe operation. 
2. Always drive slowly over rough ground. Drive at speeds slow enough to ensure your safety.
3. Avoid sharp turns on hillsides.
4. When driving out of a ditch, gully or up a steep hillside, engage the clutch slowly.
5. When descending steep grades, select a sufficiently low gear to maintain control with minimum braking.
6. Never drive near the edge of a ditch or gully unless absolutely necessary.
7. Be especially alert when operating tractor at row ends, road slopes and around obstructions.

MAINTENANCE SAFETY

1. Escaping hydraulic oil under pressure can penetrate the skin causing personal injury. Ensure all connections are tight and lines and hoses are undamaged. Before disconnecting hydraulic lines, relieve all hydraulic pressure. Do not overfill tank. 

2. Wear gloves and goggles and use a piece of cardboard or wood as a backstop for spurting fluid when searching for hydraulic leaks.
3. Add coolant to radiator only when engine is stopped and cool. Turn radiator cap to its first stop to relieve pressure before removing.

4. Never refuel tractor when engine is hot or running. Do not smoke while filling fuel tank or servicing fuel system. Use precautions in handling any type of tractor fuel. Vaporized diesel fuel is as dangerous as gasoline. Do not overfill. 

5. Do not smoke and avoid open flames when filling batteries.
6. Ether starting fluid is highly flammable. Do not use near fire, sparks, open flames or while engine is running.
7. Remove mud, crop residue, chains and tools from steps and operator's platform. They may interfere with pedal operation or entry/exit from tractor.
8. Turn lever OFF at hydraulic couplers to prevent flow to implements when servicing.
9. Ground fuel storage tanks to prevent static buildup.
10. Ensure turbocharger is cool before servicing.
11. Keep flammable material away from turbocharger.
12. Never mount a damaged tire. Tire may explode.

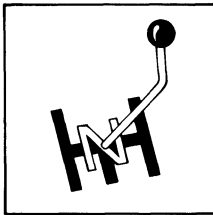
IMPLEMENT SAFETY

1. Always hitch loads to drawbar or hitch points.
2. When hitching drawn equipment to drawbar, back tractor past clevis, then move forward so that in making the connection, tractor is moving away from equipment.

3. Always lower implements to the ground when not in use and turn OFF lever couplers. Hydraulic pressure can rupture hoses, releasing high pressure oil causing implement damage.
4. Be careful when turning with a towed implement. Lift it from the ground during turns. Side thrust could damage tires.
5. Use transport locks, lower implement to ground and securely block tractor frame before servicing implement.

PTO SAFETY

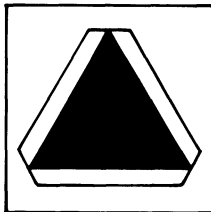
1. Ensure articulation lock is engaged, parkbrake is set and gearshift lever is in neutral when using PTO in stationary applications. Do not leave tractor unattended. If you must leave the area for any reason, stop and lockout tractor.



2. Take special care in hook-up of implement to PTO.
3. Ensure all guards are in place while operating PTO.
4. Stop and lockout tractor before disconnecting or servicing PTO drivelines.

SAFE HIGHWAY OPERATION

1. Equip towed implements with slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs when travelling on public roads.



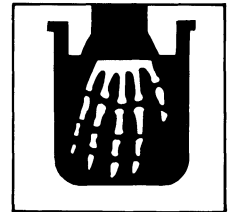
2. Install additional lights on implement rear to safeguard against rear end collisions. Day-break and dusk are particularly dangerous. VERSATILE® tractors have seven pin connectors to facilitate installation of extra lighting.
3. Be aware of transport width of towed implements. Install additional lights to left side of wide implements to alert passing traffic. Keep clear of the approaching lane.

4. Use hazard warning flashers when transporting or driving tractor on public roads unless prohibited by law in your area. Check with local authorities.
5. Keep to the right and yield the right-of-way especially when pulling implements. Pull off road and stop to allow motorists to pass. Drive on the road shoulder, if permitted by law.
6. Use extreme caution when pulling heavy loads at road speeds. Avoid hard application of tractor brakes at high speeds.
7. Ensure headlights are adjusted so they will not blind operators of oncoming vehicles.

CHEMICAL SAFETY

1. The cab air filters are not designed to filter harmful chemicals. When using agricultural chemicals, follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

2. Do not carry harmful chemicals in the cab. Chemicals may rupture the container and the fumes may poison the operator.



3. Wear OSHA approved respiratory protection when working near toxic chemicals. Maintain equipment regularly.

ARTICULATION LOCK

1. Use articulation lock during stationary applications, servicing, jacking or overhaul operations. Do not use when tractor is moving.
2. Before engaging lock, drive tractor to a level surface, put steering straight, engage parkbrake, put gearshift in neutral and stop engine. Remove lock from storage position and insert into holes left of articulation joint. It may be necessary to start engine and articulate frame slightly to engage lockpin.

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