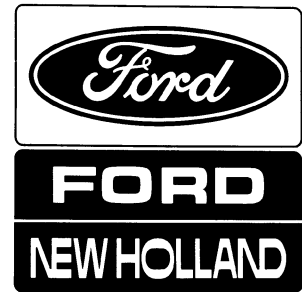


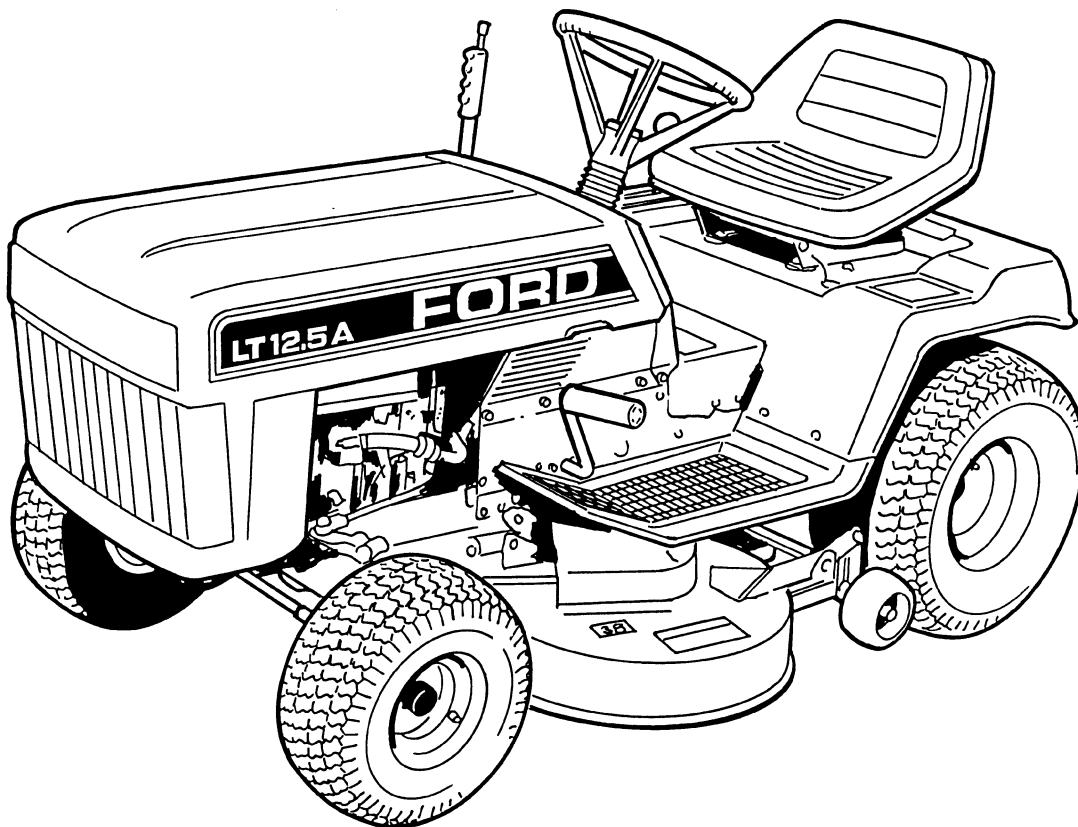
# FORD

## Operator's Manual



### LT12.5A Lawn Tractor

Model 9809214



42640012

Reprinted

## INTRODUCTION

This operator's manual has been prepared to provide the information you need to correctly assemble, operate and maintain your unit. Read it carefully and keep it for future reference. Should you ever need repair parts or service, contact your authorized parts and service dealer.

Be sure safety precautions are observed. Read and follow all safety and operating instructions in this operator's manual.

Any references made in this manual concerning the right- or left-hand sides are determined with the operator facing forward in the operating position.

The replacement of any part on this product by other than the manufacturer's authorized replacement part may adversely affect the performance, durability or safety of this product.

The manufacturer reserves the right to make changes on, or add improvements to its product at any time without prior notice or obligation. The manufacturer also reserves the right to decide, upon its discretion and at any time, to discontinue a product.

**NOTICE:** A decal with the product model number and serial number of your unit is on the left side of the tractor frame engine base assembly. Record these numbers in the space provided below. Engine model, type and code number located on the engine blower housing, cylinder head side or backplate.

Product Model No. \_\_\_\_\_

Product Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Engine Model No. \_\_\_\_\_

Engine Type No. \_\_\_\_\_

Engine Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Purchased From \_\_\_\_\_

Date Purchased \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_



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**IMPORTANT:** If decals are missing, illegible, or damaged, they should be replaced.

Notice to Customers in the State of California-The engine on this unit is **NOT** equipped with a spark arresting muffler.

## IMPORTANT

**USE OR OPERATION OF THIS ENGINE ON ANY FOREST COVERED, BRUSH COVERED, OR GRASS COVERED LAND WITHOUT A STATE APPROVED SPARK ARRESTER IN EFFECTIVE WORKING ORDER BY THE OPERATOR CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, OTHER STATES MAY HAVE SIMILAR LAWS. FEDERAL LAWS APPLY ON FEDERAL LANDS.**

# 1 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

## THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS ARE SUGGESTED TO HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

**A CAREFUL OPERATOR IS THE BEST OPERATOR. MOST ACCIDENTS CAN BE AVOIDED BY OBSERVING CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS. READ AND TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS BEFORE OPERATING THIS TRACTOR TO HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS. EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE OPERATED ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE AND INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

### THE TRACTOR

- Read this Operator's Manual and instructions furnished with any attachments before attempting to operate.
- Know the controls and their functions prior to beginning operation.
- Know how to stop quickly.
- Do not modify or alter or permit anyone else to modify or alter this tractor or any of its components or any tractor function.
- **DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO OPERATE THE TRACTOR.**
- Do not allow adults to operate tractor without proper instruction.
- **DO NOT CARRY PASSENGERS.** There is no safe place for extra riders.
- Do not mow unless the area of operation is clear of all persons, especially small children.
- All shields and guards **must** be in place **before** operating mower.
- Replace safety warning and operating instruction decals when they become damaged, or when any portion becomes illegible.

### FUEL USAGE SAFETY

- Handle gasoline with care. It is highly flammable. Only use approved gasoline container.
- **DO NOT** attempt to fill gas tank from fuel container unless the container spout or funnel fits inside the fuel tank filler neck. The use of too large a spout or funnel, or no funnel, may result in spilled gasoline, creating highly flammable gas vapors. This could result in fire and/or explosion, causing severe bodily injury. Never fill the gas tank indoors.
- **NEVER** take the cap off or refuel when the engine is running or hot; allow engine to cool for several minutes before refueling.
- **DON'T SMOKE WHILE REFUELING OR ANYWHERE NEAR FUEL**
- **DO NOT** store, spill or use gasoline near an open flame.
- When filling the tank, maintain control of the fill nozzle so as to avoid spillage on the machine or yourself.
- **DO NOT** fill tank to capacity. Allow room for expansion.
- Wipe up any spills immediately.
- **ALWAYS** tighten the fuel tank cap securely.
- If the original equipment fuel tank cap is lost, **ALWAYS** replace it with an approved cap. A will-fit cap may not be safe.
- **DO NOT** drive equipment near open fire.
- Never use gasoline for cleaning parts.

### TRACTOR OPERATION

- Disengage all power to attachment(s), fully depress brake/clutch pedal and shift into neutral before attempting to start the engine.
- Only use jumper cables in recommended manner as outlined in Operator's Manual.

- **DO NOT** bypass the safety interlock system (described in Operator's Manual.) Consult your dealer if your safety controls malfunction.
- **DO NOT** operate tractor if interlock system malfunctions.
- 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.
- Do not operate on severe slopes, hills or embankments.
- Do not operate engine if air cleaner or cover directly over carburetor air intake is removed. Removal of such part could create a fire hazard. Consult Operator's Manual for proper air cleaner maintenance procedures.
- **DO NOT** operate without a muffler or tamper with the exhaust system. Damaged mufflers or spark arresters could create a fire hazard. Inspect periodically and replace if necessary.
- **DO NOT** operate the tractor engine in an enclosed building without adequate ventilation. Exhaust fumes can cause death.
- **DO NOT** start the engine or operate controls while standing beside the tractor. Always sit in the tractor seat when starting the engine or operating controls.
- **DO NOT** get off the tractor while it is in motion.
- Before leaving the operator's position, disengage power to attachment(s), lower the attachments, shift into neutral, set the parking brake and stop the engine and remove key (if so equipped).
- **NEVER** leave the unit when it is parked on an incline. Always park the unit on level ground where possible. If the unit is to be parked on an incline, always lower the attachment(s), set the parking brake, and securely block the wheels.
- To avoid up-sets drive the tractor with care and at speeds compatible with safety, especially when operating over rough ground, crossing ditches, slopes and when turning.
- **WHEN USING ANY ATTACHMENTS, NEVER** direct discharge of material toward bystanders nor allow anyone near the vehicle while in operation.
- Keep people and pets a safe distance away from machine.
- Disengage power to attachment(s) when transporting or not in use.
- Keep the tractor in the same gear when going downhill as used when going uphill. **DO NOT** coast or free wheel down hills.
- Use care when pulling loads or using heavy equipment.
  - a) Use only approved drawbar hitch points.
  - b) Limit loads to those you can safely control.
  - c) Do not turn sharply. Use care when backing.
  - d) Use counterweight(s) or wheel weights when suggested in the Operator's Manual.
  - e) **DO NOT** operate on severe slopes, hills or embankments.

- Watch out for traffic when crossing or near roadways.
- It is recommended that this machine not be used on public roads. However, if riding on public roads is unavoidable you must comply to equipment requirements per SAE J137b and/or ASAE S279.4 lighting and marking standard. These standards require vehicles be equipped with two (2) headlights, one (1) red taillight, two (2) amber flashing warning lights and a slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem for operation on public roads.

## MOWER OPERATION

- Clear the work area of objects which might be picked up and thrown.
- When using the vehicle with mower, proceed as follows:
  - a) Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
  - b) Never make a cutting height adjustment while the engine is running if the operator must dismount to do so.
  - c) Check the blade mounting bolts for proper tightness at frequent intervals.
  - d) Shut the engine off when removing the grass catcher or unclogging chute.
- Watch for holes, rocks and roots in the terrain and other hidden hazards. Keep away from drop-offs.
- **DO NOT** stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill. Mow up and down the face of steep slopes; never across the face.
- Disengage power to mower before backing up. **DO NOT** mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary and then only after careful observation of the entire area behind the mower.

## SERVICING, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

- The vehicle and attachments should be stopped and inspected for damage after striking a foreign object and the damage should be repaired before restarting and operating the equipment. Operation of damaged equipment can lead to serious personal injury.
- Keep the vehicle and attachments in good operating condition and keep safety devices in place and in working condition.

- Keep open flame away from battery or cold weather starting aids to prevent fires or explosions.
- Disengage power to attachment (s), stop the engine, disconnect spark plug wire (s) from spark plug (s) before cleaning and making any repairs or adjustments, or prior to storage.
- **DO NOT** lubricate or make mechanical adjustments while the unit is in motion or when the engine is running. However, if minor engine adjustments must be made, set the parking brake, securely block the wheels and use extreme caution.
- It is necessary to adjust the carburetor with the engine running. Take extra care not to allow rings, wristwatches, clothing, etc. to become entangled with moving parts. Follow procedures in Operator's Manual in making adjustments.
- **DO NOT** strike flywheel with a hard object or metal tool as this may cause flywheel to shatter during operation, causing personal injury or property damage.
- **DO NOT** change the engine governor setting or overspeed the engine.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease. **DO NOT** clean while engine is running.
- Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- **NEVER** store equipment 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.
- Keep the machine and supply of gasoline in locked storage to prevent children or others from playing or tampering with them. When machine is to be stored for an extended time, disconnect battery cables or remove the battery.
- Under normal usage the grass catcher bag material is subject to deterioration and wear. Check bag frequently for deterioration and wear and replace worn bags. Check that replacement bags comply with the original manufacturer's recommendation or specifications.

## SAFETY DEFINITIONS

 **DANGER**

The signal word "**DANGER**" signifies that a source of extreme danger to a person on or near a machine exists as a result of the very nature of the machine itself. This danger to persons is such that it would result in a high likelihood of death or permanent injury if the recommended precautions are not taken.

 **WARNING**

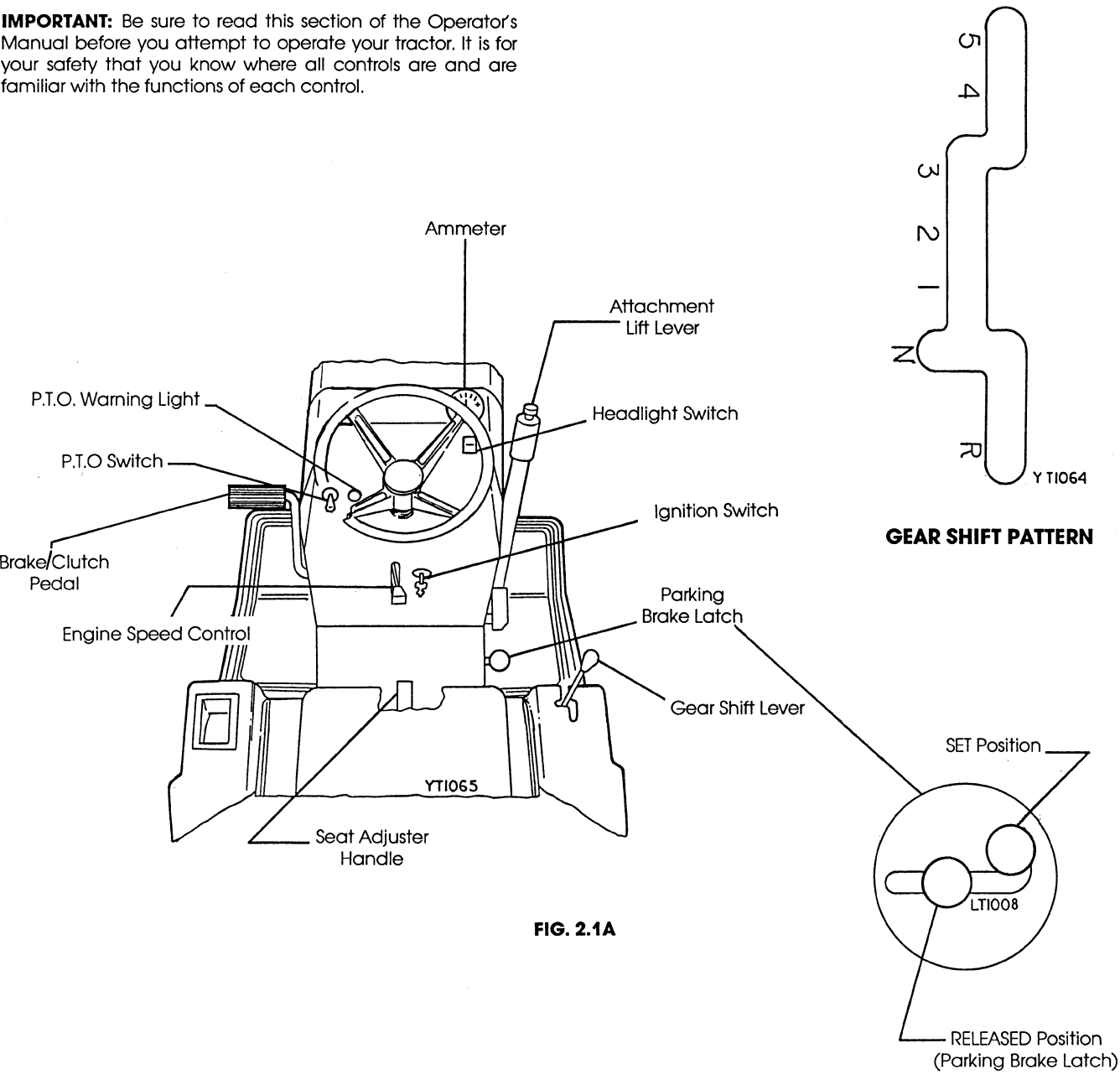
The signal word "**WARNING**" indicates that a source of danger to a person on or near a machine exists which may result in death or injury if the recommended precautions are not taken.

When you see this symbol  it means: ATTENTION! BECOME ALERT! YOUR SAFETY IS INVOLVED!

2 CONTROLS AND OPERATION

Refer to Fig. 2.1A

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure to read this section of the Operator's Manual before you attempt to operate your tractor. It is for your safety that you know where all controls are and are familiar with the functions of each control.



## SAFETY INTERLOCK SYSTEM

Your tractor is equipped with an interlock system that will allow the engine to start only if the brake pedal is fully depressed, the P.T.O. is in the OFF position, and the operator is properly seated. Refer to ELECTRICAL SYSTEM section ("Safety Interlock System") for further explanation.



**WARNING:** Do not operate tractor if interlock system malfunctions. Consult your dealer for repair or replacement.

## BRAKE/CLUTCH PEDAL

Depressing this brake/clutch pedal applies the brake and at the same time disengages the drive.

**To operate:** Depress brake/clutch pedal fully for starting, braking and changing gears. Remove foot slowly and completely from brake/clutch pedal to engage drive.

**NOTE:** The brake/clutch pedal must be completely depressed, and the P.T.O. must be in the OFF position, before the engine can be started.

## GEAR SHIFT LEVER

This lever controls the ground speed (4 or 5 speeds forward and 1 reverse).

The tractor was designed to start out in any gear. The gear should be chosen to suit the terrain and the needs of the attachment being used.

Change gears only with unit at full stop and brake clutch pedal fully depressed.

**IMPORTANT:** To avoid damaging transmission, never shift in motion.

Always place gear shift lever in neutral N before starting engine (Fig. 2.1A).

Fully depress brake/clutch pedal, and then move shift lever to the desired gear position (1 to 4 or 1 to 5 for progressively faster forward movement, R for reverse). Slowly release brake/clutch pedal to initiate tractor movement.

## ATTACHMENT LIFT LEVER

Refer to Fig. 2.2A.

This control will raise or lower attachments (mowers, snowthrowers etc.).

Be sure attachment has been properly mounted before using lift lever.

To raise attachment, pull lever back until the lock engages itself. To lower attachment, pull lever back, depress button on top of lever with your thumb and push lever forward.



**WARNING:** To avoid personal injury, never operate mower with attachment lift lever in a transport position. Mower must be lowered completely before operating. DO NOT OPERATE MOWER WITH GUARDS REMOVED.

### Operate Mower Only In Lowered Position

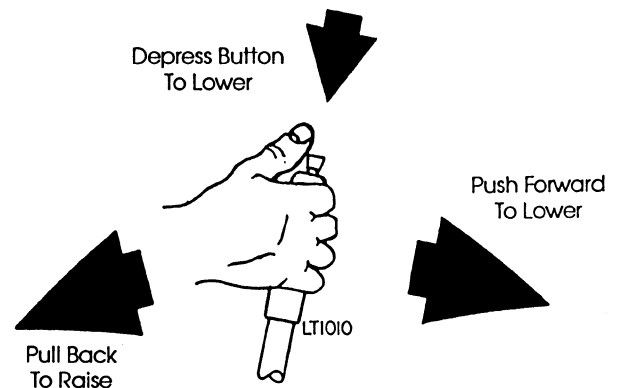


FIG. 2.2A

## ELECTRIC P.T.O. (POWER TAKE-OFF) SWITCH

This switch controls the drive to engine powered attachments.

**NOTE:** The P.T.O. must be in the OFF position and brake/clutch pedal must be completely depressed before the engine can be started.



**WARNING:** To avoid personal injury, before engaging the P.T.O., be sure the attachment is clear of any obstacles.

To ENGAGE, pull toggle lever out then up to the ON position.

To DISENGAGE, pull toggle switch down to the OFF position.



**WARNING:** To avoid personal injury, the P.T.O. should never be on unless an engine powered attachment is being operated. Place P.T.O. in off position when transporting an attachment to and from a work area.

## P.T.O. WARNING LIGHT

This warning light will go on when P.T.O. switch is in the ON position, warning you that an attachment has power.

The light will operate only if ignition key is in the ON position. Light will turn off if P.T.O. switch or ignition key is turned off.

**IMPORTANT:** Before starting tractor, check light. For your safety, keep warning light operating correctly.

## ENGINE SPEED CONTROL

This control regulates the engine speed from SLOW (idle) to FAST (maximum) operating power and speed and aids starting a cold engine with the choke function.

When starting a cold engine, move control to the START (choke) position. As soon as engine starts, move control to mid-range position. As engine warms up, gradually move control to FAST (maximum) position.

**NOTE:** There is a detent in the control between FAST (maximum) and the START (choke) position.

If the engine is warm, set control to mid-range position for starting. Gradually move control to FAST (maximum) position.

**NOTE:** Always use FAST (maximum) position when attachments are being used.

To idle engine, set control in SLOW position.

## PARKING BRAKE LATCH

This latch is hand operated and sets the parking brake. The latch is located on the right-hand side of the frame above the footrest.

TO SET: Depress brake/clutch pedal completely and slide latch forward and up to SET position (see circled illustration, Fig. 2.1 A).

TO RELEASE: Depress brake/clutch pedal until latch releases.



**WARNING:** To avoid personal injury, the parking brake should be set before the operator leaves the seat.

## HEADLIGHT SWITCH

This "rocker" type switch turns the lights ON and OFF.

To turn lights ON, push top of switch in. To turn lights OFF, push bottom of switch in.

**NOTE:** The engine must be running for the lights to operate. (Dimming of lights when engine is idling, is normal).

## IGNITION SWITCH

For safety the tractor is equipped with an automotive type ignition switch. It controls all the electrical circuits.

To start engine, turn key to START until engine starts, release key. Key will return to ON. To stop engine, turn key to OFF.



**WARNING:** Do not start engine while standing beside tractor. Always sit in the tractor seat when starting engine.

## SEAT ADJUSTMENT

TO ADJUST: Sit in tractor seat; pull seat adjuster handle up to release lock, then slide seat forward or backward to desired position. release handle to secure adjustment.

## AMMETER

The ammeter indicates whether battery is charging or discharging.

Movement of ammeter needle to the right of center indicates battery is charging; movement to the left of center indicates battery is discharging. Normal operation of the tractor will keep the battery fully charged, **NOTE:** If ammeter does not move, or indicates constant discharging, contact your authorized dealer for service instructions.

## OPENING HOOD

To open hood grasp hood at both sides and lift up with a sharp pull.



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