

# john deere s120 manual

john deere s120 manual is an essential resource for owners and operators seeking to maximize the performance, safety, and longevity of their John Deere S120 riding mower. Whether you're a seasoned landscaper or a homeowner maintaining a lush lawn, understanding how to properly operate, maintain, and troubleshoot your mower can save you time and money. This comprehensive guide will delve into the key aspects of the John Deere S120 manual, including an overview of the mower, safety instructions, operating guidelines, maintenance tips, troubleshooting, and where to find official manuals.

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## Overview of the John Deere S120 Riding Mower

The John Deere S120 is a popular model in John Deere's series of lawn tractors, designed for homeowners who need reliable and efficient yard care. It features a powerful engine, comfortable seating, and user-friendly controls, making it suitable for medium-sized lawns.

Key specifications include:

- 20 HP Briggs & Stratton engine
- 42-inch cutting deck
- Hydrostatic transmission
- Adjustable cutting height
- Comfort-focused design with ergonomic controls

Having access to the john deere s120 manual ensures you understand all these features and how to operate them safely and effectively.

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# Importance of the John Deere S120 Manual

The manual serves as a vital document providing detailed instructions on:

- Assembly and setup
- Operating procedures
- Safety guidelines
- Regular maintenance schedules
- Troubleshooting common issues
- Parts identification and replacement procedures

Proper use of the manual can extend the lifespan of your mower, improve its performance, and prevent accidents.

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## Safety Instructions in the John Deere S120 Manual

Safety is paramount when operating any lawn equipment. The John Deere S120 manual emphasizes crucial safety precautions, including:

### General Safety Guidelines

- Read and understand all safety warnings before operating the mower.
- Always wear appropriate protective gear, including safety glasses, gloves, and sturdy footwear.
- Keep children and pets away from the mowing area.

- Never operate the mower under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications that impair judgment.

## Operational Safety Tips

- Ensure the mower is on a flat, stable surface before starting.
- Check for obstacles, debris, or uneven ground that could pose hazards.
- Use the mower only for its intended purpose.
- Turn off the engine and remove the key before inspecting or servicing the mower.
- Be cautious when mowing slopes—avoid sudden turns or inclines that could cause tipping.

The manual provides detailed safety labels and instructions for specific situations, which should always be followed strictly.

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## Operating the John Deere S120

Proper operation ensures a clean cut and safe experience. The **john deere s120 manual** guides users through starting, mowing, and stopping procedures.

## Starting the Mower

1. Ensure the parking brake is engaged.
2. Check that the mower deck is lowered and disengaged.
3. Insert the key into the ignition switch and turn it to the "ON" position.
4. Depress the brake pedal and hold it down.
5. Move the throttle control to the "Fast" or "Start" position.
6. Turn the ignition key to start the engine. Release the key once the engine starts.

## Mowing Tips

- Set the cutting height to suit the grass type and desired lawn appearance.
- Overlap each pass slightly to ensure an even cut.
- Adjust the speed according to terrain and grass conditions.
- Be cautious around obstacles such as trees, rocks, and flower beds.

## Stopping and Parking

1. Release the drive pedal or control lever to stop movement.
2. Engage the parking brake.
3. Turn the ignition key to the "Off" position and remove it.
4. Lower the mower deck if needed for storage or maintenance.

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## Maintenance and Care for the John Deere S120

Regular maintenance, as outlined in the **john deere s120** manual, is crucial to keep the mower running smoothly. It includes basic tasks like oil changes, blade sharpening, and belt checks.

### Routine Maintenance Schedule

- Check engine oil levels and change oil after the first 5 hours of use, then regularly as specified.
- Inspect and replace air filters to ensure proper engine breathing.
- Sharpen or replace mower blades periodically for optimal cutting performance.
- Inspect the drive belts for wear or cracks and replace if necessary.

- Clean the mower deck to prevent grass buildup that can hinder performance.
- Check tire pressure and inflate to recommended PSI for better handling and even cutting.

## Storage Tips

- Store in a dry, sheltered location to prevent rust and corrosion.
- Before storage, run the mower to clear fuel lines and add fuel stabilizer if storing for an extended period.
- Remove the battery or disconnect it to prevent drainage.

Following maintenance instructions from the manual will help avoid costly repairs and extend the life of your mower.

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## Troubleshooting Common Issues with the John Deere S120

When your mower encounters problems, the john deere s120 manual offers troubleshooting guides for common issues.

### Engine Won't Start

- Check the fuel level; refill if empty.
- Inspect the spark plug for wear or damage and replace if necessary.

- Ensure the ignition switch is in the correct position.
- Check for clogged or dirty air filters.
- Verify that safety switches are engaged properly.

## **Uneven Cutting or Poor Mowing Performance**

- Sharpen or replace dull blades.
- Check for grass buildup under the deck.
- Ensure the mower deck is level and properly adjusted.
- Inspect drive belts for proper tension and condition.

## **Unusual Noises or Vibrations**

- Stop the engine and inspect blades and pulleys for damage or imbalance.
- Check for loose bolts or mounting hardware.
- Consult the manual for specific diagnostic procedures.

Having a thorough understanding of troubleshooting steps from the manual can save you time and

prevent unnecessary service calls.

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## Where to Find the Official John Deere S120 Manual

Obtaining the official john deere s120 manual is straightforward:

- John Deere Website: Download PDF versions free of charge or purchase printed copies.
- Authorized Dealers: Visit your local John Deere dealer for printed manuals and expert advice.
- Online Retailers: Platforms like eBay or Amazon often have original or reproduction manuals.
- Third-party Manual Providers: Some websites specialize in agricultural and lawn equipment manuals, offering digital or printed copies.

Always ensure you're accessing the correct manual edition for your model year to get accurate instructions.

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## Conclusion

The john deere s120 manual is an indispensable tool for ensuring safe, efficient, and long-lasting operation of your lawn tractor. By familiarizing yourself with the manual's content—covering safety, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting—you can optimize your mowing experience and maintain the health of your equipment. Regularly referencing the manual and adhering to recommended procedures will allow you to enjoy a well-maintained lawn with minimal downtime and repair costs. Whether you're new to John Deere or a seasoned user, keeping the manual accessible and understanding its guidance is key to getting the most out of your S120 mower.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where can I find the official John Deere S120 manual?**

You can download the official John Deere S120 manual from the John Deere website's support or manuals section by searching for your model number.

### **What should I do if my John Deere S120 manual is missing or lost?**

If your manual is missing, you can access a digital copy on the John Deere website or contact your local dealer to obtain a replacement or a printed manual.

### **Does the John Deere S120 manual include maintenance and troubleshooting tips?**

Yes, the manual provides comprehensive maintenance schedules, troubleshooting guides, and safety instructions to keep your mower in optimal condition.

### **Can I find a PDF version of the John Deere S120 manual online?**

Yes, official PDF versions are available on the John Deere website, or through authorized dealers and third-party manual repositories.

### **What safety precautions are outlined in the John Deere S120 manual?**

The manual emphasizes safety precautions such as proper handling, wearing protective gear, and safe operation practices to prevent accidents.

### **Is there a quick start guide included in the John Deere S120 manual?**

Yes, the manual includes a quick start guide to help new users understand basic operation and setup of the mower.

# Additional Resources

## John Deere S120 Manual: An In-Depth Analysis and Review

When considering a reliable, efficient, and user-friendly lawn tractor, the John Deere S120 Manual emerges as a crucial resource for current owners, prospective buyers, and enthusiasts alike. This comprehensive guide aims to delve into the intricacies of the John Deere S120, examining its features, operational guidance, maintenance procedures, safety protocols, and overall performance as documented in its official manual. By dissecting the manual's contents and evaluating its practical utility, this article provides a thorough understanding of the S120's design philosophy and its role within the broader landscape of residential lawn tractors.

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## Introduction to the John Deere S120

The John Deere S120 is a popular entry-level riding lawn mower designed primarily for homeowners seeking an easy-to-operate, durable, and efficient machine for maintaining medium-sized lawns. Launched as part of John Deere's Series of residential lawn tractors, the S120 combines affordability with robust engineering, making it an attractive choice for those looking to achieve a professional-looking finish without extensive maintenance complexity.

The official manual for the S120 is an essential document that guides users through assembly, operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and safety. Its comprehensive nature ensures users can maximize their machine's lifespan and performance while minimizing risks associated with improper use.

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# Overview of the John Deere S120 Manual

The manual is designed to be both an instructional and reference resource, typically divided into several key sections:

- Safety and Precautions
- Product Identification and Specifications
- Assembly Instructions
- Operation Procedures
- Maintenance and Service
- Troubleshooting
- Parts Catalog and Diagrams
- Warranty and Customer Support

Each section is crafted with clarity and detail, often supplemented with diagrams, step-by-step instructions, and safety warnings to ensure users can operate and maintain their S120 effectively.

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## Safety Guidelines and Precautions

A significant portion of the John Deere S120 Manual emphasizes safety, reflecting the manufacturer's commitment to safe operation. This section covers:

- Pre-Operation Safety Checks: Ensuring all components are intact, safety shields are in place, and control mechanisms function smoothly.
- Operating Safely: Proper starting procedures, speed control, steering, and stopping.
- Protective Equipment: Recommendations for wearing appropriate clothing, eye protection, and hearing protection.

- Hazard Awareness: Identifying risks such as sharp blades, moving parts, and uneven terrain.
- Child and Bystander Safety: Guidelines on keeping children and bystanders at a safe distance during operation.
- Emergency Procedures: How to quickly shut down the mower in case of an emergency.

The manual underscores that safety is a shared responsibility, urging users to read and understand all warnings before operating the machine.

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## **Assembly and Setup Instructions**

For new owners or those performing initial setup, the manual provides detailed assembly instructions, including:

### **Unboxing and Initial Inspection**

- Verify all parts against the parts list.
- Check for shipping damage.
- Ensure safety features are properly installed.

### **Assembly Steps**

- Attaching the mower deck.
- Installing the control lever and steering components.
- Connecting the battery and fuel system.
- Adjusting seat and steering wheel positions for comfort.

## **Pre-Use Checklist**

- Checking tire pressures.
- Filling engine oil and fuel.
- Inspecting blades for sharpness and proper attachment.
- Ensuring safety shields are in place.

This section ensures users are confident with their machine before first-time operation, reducing potential operational issues and safety hazards.

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## **Operating the John Deere S120**

The manual provides a comprehensive guide to operating the lawn tractor safely and effectively, including:

### **Starting and Stopping Procedures**

- Engaging the parking brake.
- Turning the ignition key to the 'On' position.
- Engaging the blade engagement lever.
- Starting the engine.
- Disengaging blades and turning off the engine.

### **Driving and Mowing**

- Using the motion control levers for steering.
- Adjusting the cutting height using the height adjustment lever.
- Understanding the mower's turning radius.

- Operating on slopes safely.

## **Additional Features**

- Using the cruise control (if equipped).
- Implementing mulching or side-discharge functions.
- Managing accessories or attachments.

Proper operation instructions aim to enhance efficiency while safeguarding the user and the machine.

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## **Maintenance and Servicing Protocols**

Routine maintenance is critical to extend the lifespan and ensure optimal performance of the John Deere S120. The manual emphasizes proactive care, with detailed procedures such as:

### **Engine Maintenance**

- Checking and changing engine oil.
- Replacing the oil filter.
- Inspecting and replacing the air filter.
- Spark plug maintenance.

### **Blade Servicing**

- Sharpening blades regularly.
- Replacing damaged or worn blades.
- Balancing blades to reduce vibration.

## Battery Care

- Checking battery terminals for corrosion.
- Maintaining proper charge levels.
- Replacing the battery when necessary.

## Drive System Maintenance

- Checking belt tension and condition.
- Inspecting wheels and axles.
- Lubricating moving parts as specified.

## Cleaning and Storage

- Removing grass clippings and debris.
- Storing the mower in a dry, sheltered location.
- Preparing the machine for winter shutdown.

The manual outlines a maintenance schedule with recommended intervals, ensuring users can plan servicing to prevent unexpected breakdowns.

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## Troubleshooting Common Issues

Despite diligent maintenance, users may encounter operational problems. The manual offers troubleshooting tips for common issues such as:

- Engine won't start: Check fuel levels, spark plug condition, and safety switch operation.
- Uneven cutting: Inspect blades, adjust height settings, or check for debris buildup.

- Excessive vibration: Examine blades and drive belts for damage.
- Poor acceleration or loss of power: Inspect air filter, fuel system, or carburetor.
- Mower pulling to one side: Check tire pressures and wheel alignment.

This troubleshooting section acts as an initial diagnostic tool, encouraging users to resolve minor issues safely before seeking professional assistance.

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## Parts and Diagram Reference

The manual includes detailed parts diagrams and a comprehensive parts list, facilitating:

- Easy identification of components.
- Ordering replacement parts.
- Understanding assembly and disassembly procedures.

This section is invaluable for DIY repairs or routine replacements, reducing downtime and service costs.

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## Warranty and Customer Support

Finally, the manual provides warranty information, outlining coverage details and limitations. It also offers guidance on contacting John Deere customer support for technical assistance, parts ordering, or service inquiries.



## Conclusion: The Value of the John Deere S120 Manual

The John Deere S120 Manual is a vital resource that underpins safe, efficient, and effective use of the lawn tractor. Its detailed instructions, safety precautions, maintenance schedules, and troubleshooting guides make it an indispensable document for owners aiming to maximize their machine's performance and longevity.

For prospective buyers, reviewing the manual's contents provides insight into the machine's complexity and the level of care required, aiding in informed purchasing decisions. For current owners, routinely consulting the manual can prevent accidents, reduce repair costs, and extend the lifespan of their investment.

In conclusion, the manual not only supports the technical operation of the John Deere S120 but also embodies a philosophy of responsible ownership and proactive maintenance—principles that are essential for any machinery used in residential lawn care.

Disclaimer: Always refer to the official John Deere S120 manual provided with your machine or available through authorized dealers for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

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**john deere s120 manual:** *Operator's Manual* Deere & Company, 1956\*

**john deere s120 manual: John Deere 755, 855, and 955 Operators Manual** John Deere Horicon Works, 1984

**john deere s120 manual:** *John Deere 720 Loader* Deere & Company, 1962

**john deere s120 manual:** John Deere 115 Lawn and Garden Tractor Technical Service Repair Manual , 2005-01-15

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