TORO_®

48" Side Discharge Mower 260 Series Lawn and Garden Tractor Attachment

Model No. 78269—Serial No. 220000001 and Up

Operator's Manual

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Introduction

Read this manual carefully to learn how to operate and maintain your product properly. The information in this manual can help you and others avoid injury and product damage. Although Toro designs and produces safe products, you are responsible for operating the product properly and safely.

Whenever you need service, genuine Toro parts, or additional information, contact an Authorized Service Dealer or Toro Customer Service and have the model and serial numbers of your product ready. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the model and serial numbers on the product.



1. Location of the model and serial numbers

Write the product model and serial numbers in the space below:

Model No.

Serial No. _

This manual identifies potential hazards and has special safety messages that help you and others avoid personal injury and even death. *Danger*, *Warning*, and *Caution* are signal words used to identify the level of hazard. However, regardless of the hazard, be extremely careful.

Danger signals an extreme hazard that *will* cause serious injury or death if you do not follow the recommended precautions.

Warning signals a hazard that *may* cause serious injury or death if you do not follow the recommended precautions.

Caution signals a hazard that may cause minor or moderate injury if you do not follow the recommended precautions.

This manual uses two other words to highlight information. Important calls attention to special mechanical information and Note: emphasizes general information worthy of special attention.



Safety and Instruction Decals



Safety decals and instructions are easily visible to the operator and are located near any area of potential danger. Replace any decal that is damaged or lost.



93-7282

- Stop the engine and remove the ignition key before leaving the machine
- 2. Read the Operator's Manual.
- 3. Wheel height



93-7317

- 1. Thrown object hazard—stay a safe distance from the machine.
- 2. Thrown object hazard, mower-keep the deflector in place.
- 3. Cutting/dismemberment of hand or foot—stay away from moving parts.





- 1. Engine
- 1. Thrown object hazard—stay a safe distance from the machine.
- 2. Thrown object hazard, mower-keep the deflector in place.
- 3. Cutting/dismemberment of hand or foot—stay away from moving parts.

Setup

Note: Determine the left and right sides of the machine from the normal operating position.

Loose Parts

Note: Use the chart below to identify parts used for assembly.

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	USE		
Grass deflector	1			
Spring	1			
Washer, 1/2 in.	1			
Cotter pin, 3/4 in.	1	Installing the grass deflector		
Plastic washer	2			
Rubber bushing	1			
Lock nut, 3/8 in.	1			
Rear link	1			
Washer	1			
Cotter pin	1	Installing the rear link and front mounts		
Adjustable links	2	instailing the rear link and nont mounts		
Washer, 1/2 in.	2			
Cotter pin, 1 in.	2			
Hairpin cotter–large	2	Installing the mower		
Washer, 3/4 in.	2			
Hairpin cotter–small	3			
Washer, 1/2 in.	3			
Operator's Manual	1	Read before operating		

Installing the Grass Deflector

- **1.** Place the short end of the spring into the small hole in the grass deflector (Fig. 2).
- 2. Position spring and grass deflector over post on rear of deck and secure with a washer (1/2 in.) and a cotter pin (3/4 in.) (Fig. 2).
- **3.** Slide rubber bushing and plastic washer over stud at front of mower.
- **4.** Place grass deflector over stud and secure with a second plastic washer and a jam nut (3/8 in.) (Fig. 2).



- 4 Washer, 1/2 in.
- 5. Rubber bushing
- 9. Small hole in grass deflector

Important Discharge chute must be spring loaded in the down position. Lift chute up to test that it snaps to the full down position.



An uncovered discharge opening could allow the lawn mower to throw objects in the operator's or bystander's direction and result in serious injury. Also, contact with the blade could occur.

- Never remove the grass deflector from the mower because the grass deflector routes material down toward the turf. If the grass deflector is ever damaged, replace it immediately.
- Never put your hands or feet under the mower.
- Never try to clear discharge area or mower blades unless you move the power take off (PTO) to off and rotate the ignition key to off. Also remove the key and pull the wire off the spark plugs.

Installing the Rear Link and **Front Mounts**

1. Place rear link on mower rear bracket and secure with washer (1/2 in.) and cotter pin (Fig. 3).



2. Place adjustable links in front mower brackets and secure with washers (1/2 in.) and cotter pins (Fig. 4).



Installing the Mower

- 1. Park the machine on a level surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to off. Remove the key.
- 2. Turn the front wheels fully to the left and raise attachment lift lever all the way to the latched position; refer to Using the Attachment Lift Lever, on page 11.
- 3. Slide the mower under the chassis from the right side (Fig. 5) and align rear mounting bushings with ends of lift arms.
- 4. Turn Dial-a-Height knob counterclockwise, all the way, and lower the attachment lift lever to the mounting position; refer to Adjusting the Dial-a-Height, on page 12.

- **5.** Place rear guide bushings, first left side then right, onto lift arms then slide deck left into position. Secure with washers (3/4 in.) and large hairpin cotters (Fig. 5).
- **6.** Attach rear link to attachment lift with washer (1/2 in.) and small hairpin cotter (Fig. 5).



Figure 5

- 1. Lift arms
- 5. Rear link

6.

7.

Washer, 1/2 in.

Hairpin cotter-small

- 2. Washer, 3/4 in.
- 3. Hairpin cotter-large
- 4. Attachment lift
- **7.** Install front adjustable links to front lift arms with washers and small hairpin cotters (Fig. 6).



- 1. Adjustable link
- Front lift arm
- Washer, 1/2 in.
 Hairpin cotter-small
- **8.** Pull on idler pulley to relax belt tension and install mower drive belt into the top engine drive pulley groove (Fig. 7).

Note: Make sure belt is properly located in engine and deck pulleys and around idler pulley.

Important If extreme low cut height is used install mower drive belt in bottom engine pulley groove.



- **9.** Check mower level; refer to Side-to-Side Mower Leveling, on page 9 and Front-to-Rear Blade Leveling, on page 10.
- **10.** Raise attachment lift lever all the way to the latched position and adjust mower height-of-cut; and transport height adjustment; refer to page 8.

Adjusting the Deck at Transport Height

Transport height is set at the factory and should not need adjustment; however if the belt covers contact the footrest in the raised position, adjustment is required.

- 1. Adjust by turning transport height nut, (Fig. 8) on lift mechanism, clockwise to raise or counterclockwise to lower mower.
- **2.** Adjust nut until there is 1/16–1/8 in. (2–5 mm) clearance between belt cover and left footrest.



1. Nut

Leveling the Mower Side-to-Side

The mower blades must be level from side to side. Check the side-to-side level any time you install the mower or when you see an uneven cut on your lawn. Before you level the mower, set the air pressure in the front and rear tires to 12 psi (85 kPa).

2-3/4 to 4 in. (70–102 mm) Height-of-Cut Range

When the mower height-of-cut is set to the 2-3/4-4 in. (70–102 mm) range the mower is suspended from the tractor.

- 1. Park the machine on a level surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to off. Remove the key.
- **2.** Raise attachment lift lever all the way to the latched position.
- **3.** Carefully rotate blades side to side (Fig. 9). Measure between the outside cutting edges and the flat surface (Fig. 9). If both measurements are not within 3/16 in. (5 mm), an adjustment is required; refer to steps 4, 5 and 6.



2. Outside cutting edges

- 4. Loosen adjustment bolt on one side and rotate hanger bracket to raise or lower mower (Fig. 10).
- **5.** After adjusting, tighten bolt and check side-to-side level.

Important If hanger is rotated to the end of adjustment on one side and mower is not level, adjust the opposite side.



6. Now check the front-to-rear blade slope; refer to Checking the Front-to-Rear Blade Slope; on page 10.

3/4 to 2-3/4 in. (19–70 mm) Height-of-Cut Range

When the mower height-of-cut is set to the 3/4–2-3/4 in. (19–70 mm) range the rear gage wheels contact the ground. There is no side-to-side adjustment for this height range; refer to Checking the Front-to-Rear Blade Slope, on page 10.

Checking the Front-to-Rear **Blade Slope**

Check the front-to-rear blade slope any time you install the mower. Before checking the slope, set air pressure in the front and rear tires to 12 psi (85 kPa). If the front blade tip is not 3/8 in. (9.5 mm) or lower than the rear blade tip, adjust the blade slope using the following instructions.

- 1. Park the machine on a level surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to off. Remove the key.
- 2. Check and adjust side-to-side blade level if you have not checked the setting; refer to Side-to-Side Mower Leveling, page 9.
- 3. Adjust the Dial-A-Height knob so the height-of-cut is in the middle of the range and lower attachment lift.
- 4. Carefully rotate blades so they are facing front and rear (Fig. 11).
- 5. Measure at locations A and B from a level surface to the cutting edge of the blades (Fig. 11). The blade tips must be 3/8 in. or lower in the front than in the rear. Adjust the front adjustable link, if needed.



1. Blade front to rear

2.

- 3. Measure rear blade tip
- Measure front blade tip
- 4 Measure here
- 6. To adjust front-to rear blade level, loosen jam nut on front adjustable links. (Fig. 12).
- 7. Rotate the bolt on front adjustable links to change front-to rear blade level (Fig. 12).

Note: To raise the front of the mower, shorten the adjustable links by turning bolt clockwise.



8. When front-to-rear slope is correct, tighten jam nut. Recheck side-to-side mower level; refer to Side-to-Side Mower Leveling, page 9.

Operation

Note: Determine the left and right sides of the machine from the normal operating position.

Side Discharge



bystander's direction and result in serious injury. Also, contact with the blade could occur.

- Never remove the grass deflector from the mower because the grass deflector routes material down toward the turf. If the grass deflector is ever damaged, replace it immediately.
- Never put your hands or feet under the mower.
- Never try to clear discharge area or mower blades unless you move the power take off (PTO) to off and rotate the ignition key to off. Also remove the key and pull the wire off the spark plugs.
- 1. The mower has a hinged grass deflector that disperses clippings to the side and down toward the turf.

Operating the Power Take Off (PTO)

The power take off (PTO) engages and disengages power to the electric clutch.

While the ignition key is in the *run* or *lights* positions and the power take off (PTO) is engaged, the PTO light, in the Indicator Module, will be on. When this light is on it is a reminder; the starter will not crank and turn the off PTO before getting off.

Engaging the Power Take Off (PTO)

- **1.** Move throttle to fast position.
- **2.** Pull the power take off (PTO) to the **on** position (Fig. 13).



Disengaging the Power Take Off (PTO)

1. Push the power take off (PTO) to the **off** position (Fig. 13).

Using the Attachment Lift Lever

The attachment lift lever (Fig. 14) is used to raise and lower various attachments.

Raising Attachments

- 1. Depress the brake pedal to stop the machine.
- **2.** Pull attachment lift lever rearward until latch locks. In this position the lift will hold the attachment in the up, or raised position.

Lowering Attachments

- **1.** Depress the brake and/or clutch pedals to stop the machine.
- 2. Pull attachment lift lever rearward, to release lift pressure, and push the button on top to release the latch. Move lift lever forward to lower attachment.



2. Button

3.

- Button Dial-A-Height
- High
 Mounting position

Using the Attachment Power Lift

The attachment power lift (optional on some models) (Fig. 15) is used to raise and lower attachments.

Raising Attachments

- **1.** Start the engine, refer to; Starting and Stopping the Engine in tractor Operator's Manual.
- **2.** Push the lift switch in the up direction to raise the attachment lift (Fig. 15). This will lift and hold the attachment in the up, or raised position.

Lowering Attachments

- 1. Start the engine, refer to; Starting and Stopping the Engine; in tractor Operator's Manual.
- 2. Push the lift switch in the down direction to lower the attachment lift (Fig. 15). This will lower the attachment lift.



Adjusting the Dial-A-Height

The Dial-A-Height control (Fig. 14) is used to limit the downward travel of the attachment. The Dial-A-Height knob is rotated to change the location of this stop, up or down.

- 1. Raise the attachment lift lever; refer to Raising Attachments page 11. In the raised, position the Dial-A-Height knob (Fig. 14) can be rotated to change the stop location. Turn clockwise to raise and counterclockwise to lower the height of the attachment.
- **2.** The Dial-A-Height indicator (Fig. 14) will show the change, high to low, in attachment lift height as adjustment is made.

Adjusting the Anti-Scalp Rollers

The anti-scalp rollers guide the mower over uneven turf without scalping the lawn. For most cutting conditions they should be located in the lower hole. When cutting in 1-1/2 in. (38 mm) height-of-cut or lower move the anti-scalp rollers to the upper hole position.

- **1.** Raise the attachment lift lever: Refer to Raising Attachments.
- **2.** Remove cotter pin, bolt and shaft to change hole location (Fig. 16).
- **3.** Select the hole position for the height-of-cut to be used and insert rod (Fig. 16).
- 4. Secure rod with bolt and cotter pin.



Adjusting the Gage Wheels

The gage wheels (on certain models) must be adjusted in the proper hole location for each height-of-cut position.

- **1.** After adjusting height-of-cut. raise the attachment lift lever: Refer to Raising Attachments.
- **2.** Remove hairpin cotter and pin to change hole location (Fig. 17).
- **3.** Select a hole position so the gage wheel is 3/8 in. (9.5 mm) off the ground for the height-of-cut to be used (Fig. 17).
- 4. Insert pin and secure with hairpin cotter.
- 5. Repeat adjustment on other gage wheel.



Tips for Mowing Grass

Fast Throttle Setting

For best mowing and maximum air circulation, operate the engine at fast. Air is required to thoroughly cut grass clippings, so do not set the height-of-cut so low, as to totally surround the mower by uncut grass. Always try to have one side of the mower free from uncut grass, which allows air to be drawn into the mower.

Cutting a Lawn for the First Time

Cut grass slightly longer than normal to ensure the cutting height of the mower does not scalp any uneven ground. However, the cutting height used in the past is generally the best one to use. When cutting grass longer than six inches tall, you may want to cut the lawn twice to assure an acceptable quality-of-cut.

Cut 1/3 of the Grass Blade

It is best to cut only about 1/3 of the grass blade. Cutting more than that is not recommended, unless grass is sparse or it is late fall when grass grows more slowly.

Mowing Direction

Alternate mowing direction to keep the grass standing straight. This also helps disperse clippings which enhances decomposition and fertilization.

Mow at Correct Intervals

Normally, mow every 4 days. But remember, grass grows at different rates at different times. So to maintain the same cutting height, which is a good practice, mow more often in early spring. As the grass growth rate slows in mid summer, mow less frequently. If you cannot mow for an extended period, first mow at a high cutting height; then mow again 2 days later at a lower height setting.

Cutting Speed

To improve cut quality, use slower ground speed.

Avoid Cutting Too Low

If the cutting width of the mower is wider than the mower you previously used, raise the cutting height to ensure uneven turf is not cut too short.

Long Grass

If the grass is ever allowed to grow slightly longer than normal, or if it contains a high degree of moisture, raise the cutting height higher than usual and cut the grass at this setting. Then cut the grass again using the lower, normal setting.

When Stopping

If the machine's forward motion must be stopped while mowing, a clump of grass clippings may drop onto your lawn. To avoid this:

- 1. With the blades engaged, move onto a previously cut area.
- 2. To disperse the clippings evenly, raise the mower one or two height-of-cut settings while driving forward with the blades engaged.

Keep the Underside of the Mower Clean

Clean clippings and dirt from the underside of the mower after each use. If grass and dirt build up inside the mower, cutting quality will eventually become unsatisfactory.

Blade Maintenance

Maintain a sharp blade throughout the cutting season because a sharp blade cuts cleanly without tearing or shredding the grass blades. Tearing and shredding turns grass brown at the edges, which slows growth and increases the chance of disease. Every 30 days, check the cutter blades for sharpness and file down any nicks.

Maintenance

Note: Determine the left and right sides of the machine from the normal operating position.

Recommended Maintenance Schedule

Maintenance Service Interval	Maintenance Procedure				
Each Use	Mower Housing—clean				
5 Hours	Cutter Blade—check Mower Housing—clean				
25 Hours	 Cutter Blade—check Tires—check pressure Grease–Mower deck 				
At Storage	 Cutter Blade—check Grease–Mower deck Belts—check for wear/cracks Mower Housing—clean Chipped Surfaces—paint Tires—check pressure 				



Caution

If you leave the key in the ignition switch, someone could accidently start the engine and seriously injure you or other bystanders.

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Remove the key from the ignition and disconnect the wire from the spark plugs before you do any maintenance. Set the wire aside so that it does not accidentally contact the spark plug.

Servicing the Cutting Blades

To ensure a superior quality of cut, keep the blades sharp. For convenient sharpening and replacement, you may want to have an extra blades.



Warning

A worn or damaged blade can break, and a piece of the blade could be thrown into the operator's or bystander's area, resulting in serious personal injury or death.

- Inspect the blade periodically for wear or damage.
- Replace a worn or damaged blade.

Warning

A blade that is bent or damaged could break apart and could seriously injure or kill you or bystanders.

- Always replace bent or damaged blade with a new blade.
- Never file or create sharp notches in the edges or surfaces of blade.

Inspecting the Blades

- **1.** Remove the mower; refer to Removing the Mower, page 17.
- 2. Inspect the cutting edges (Fig. 18). If the edges are not sharp or have nicks, remove the blades and sharpen them; refer to Sharpening the Blades, page 15.

3. Inspect the blades, especially the curved area (Fig. 18). If you notice any damage, wear, or a slot forming in this area (Fig. 18), immediately install a new blade.



Removing the Blades

Important There are two different sizes of blades. The shorter blade goes into the center spindle. The two longer blades go on the outside spindles (Fig. 22).

- 1. Remove the mower; refer to Removing the Mower; page 17.
- 2. Carefully tip the mower over.

2.

3.

- 3. Remove the nut, flat washer, blade, and washer (Fig. 19). A block of wood may be wedged between the blade and the mower to lock the blade when you are removing the bolt.
- 4. Inspect all parts. If a defect or damage is noticed, install new parts.



Sharpening the Blades

1. Use a file to sharpen the cutting edge at both ends of the blade (Fig. 20). Maintain the original angle. The blade retains its balance if the same amount of material is removed from both cutting edges.



2. Check the balance of the blade by putting it on a blade balancer (Fig. 21). If the blade stays in a horizontal position, the blade is balanced and can be used. If the blade is not balanced, file some metal off the back side of the blade. Repeat this procedure until the blade is balanced.



Installing the Blades

Important There are two different sizes and shapes of blades. The shorter blade goes into the center spindle. The two longer blades go on the outside spindles (Fig. 23). See figure 22 for the shape difference.





- 1. Long blade, 16-11/32 in. 2. Short blade, 15-27/32 in.
- 1. Install the washer, blade, flat washer, and the blade nut (Fig. 24).

Important The curved part of the blade must be pointing toward the inside of the mower to assure proper cutting.

2. Tighten the blade nut to 80-100 ft-lb (109-136 Nm).



Note: Make sure the short blade is installed on the center spindle.

Greasing and Lubrication

Service Interval/Specification

1. Nut

2.

3.

Grease the machine after every 25 operating hours or once a year, whichever occurs first. Grease more frequently when operating conditions are extremely dusty or sandy.

Grease Type: General-purpose grease.

How to Grease

- 1. Disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to off. Remove the key
- 2. Clean the grease fittings with a rag. Make sure to scrape any paint off the front of the fittings.
- 3. Connect a grease gun to the fitting. Pump grease into the fittings.
- 4. Wipe up any excess grease.

Where to Add Grease

1. Lubricate the blade spindles, idler pulley arm and gage wheel bearings (Fig. 25).



Servicing the Blade Drive Belt

Removing the Blade Drive Belt

- 1. Remove the mower; refer to Removing the Mower, page 17.
- 2. Remove the pulley cover mounting screws and pulley covers from both blade pulleys (Fig. 26).
- 3. Remove the belt from the pulleys (Fig. 26).

Installing the Blade Drive Belt

- 1. Install the new belt around the blade pulleys and the idler pulley.
- 2. Install the left and right pulley covers with the mounting screws (Fig. 26).
- 3. Install the mower; refer to Installing the Mower, page 7.





Washing the Underside of Mower

After each use, wash the underside of the mower to prevent grass build-up for improved mulch action and clipping dispersal.

- **1.** Park the machine on a hard level surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), and turn the ignition key to off.
- 2. Screw coupling to the end of a garden hose, attach coupling to mower washout fitting, and turn water on high (Fig. 27).

Note: Spread petroleum jelly on washout fitting o-ring to make coupling slide on easier and protect o-ring.

- **3.** Lower the mower to the lowest height-of-cut.
- **4.** Sit on the seat and start the engine. Engage power take off (PTO) and let mower run for one to three minutes.
- **5.** Disengage the blade, power take off (PTO) and turn the ignition key to off. Wait for all moving parts to stop.
- **6.** Turn the water off, remove hose coupling from the washout fitting.

Note: If the mower is not clean after one washing, soak and let stand for 30 minutes. Then repeat process again.

7. Run mower again for one to three minutes to remove excess water.

2. Coupling

Warning

A broken or missing washout fitting could expose you and others to thrown objects or blade contact. Contact with thrown debris or blade contact will cause injury or death.

- Replace broken or missing washout fitting immediately, before using mower again.
- Plug any holes in mower with bolts and locknuts.
- Never put your hands or feet under the mower or through openings in the mower.

Removing the Mower

- 1. Park the machine on a level surface, disengage the power take off (PTO), set the parking brake, and turn the ignition key to off. Remove the key.
- 2. Turn the front wheels fully to the left and raise attachment lift lever all the way to the latched position; refer to tractor Operator's Manual.
- 3. Remove mower drive belt from engine pulley.
- 4. Remove small hairpin cotters and washers from front adjustable links and remove from front lift arm (Fig. 28).



- Adjustable link
 Front lift arm
- Hairpin cotter-small
- **5.** Remove small hairpin cotter and washer from rear link and remove from attachment lift (Fig. 29).

4.

- **6.** Remove hairpin cotters and washers from rear lift arms (Fig. 29).
- 7. Slide deck right, off rear lift arms (Fig. 29).



Figure 29

- 1. Lift arms
- 2. Washer, 3/4 in.
- 3. Hairpin cotter-large
- 4. Attachment lift
- 5. Rear link
- 6. Washer, 1/2 in.
- 7. Hairpin cotter-small

8. Raise attachment lift all the way to the latched position. Turn the front wheels, as necessary, and slide the mower out to the the right side.

Note: Save all hardware, washers and hairpin cotters for use when installing deck.

Storage

1. Clean dirt and chaff from the outside of the engine's cylinder head fins and blower housing. Also remove grass clippings, dirt, and grime from the external parts of the entire machine, especially the engine, shrouding, and the top of the mower.

Important You can wash the machine with mild detergent and water. Do not pressure wash the machine. Avoid excessive use of water, especially near the control panel, lights, engine, and the battery.

- **2.** Wash the underside of the mower; refer to Washing Underside of Mower, page 17.
- **3.** Check the condition of the blades; refer to Servicing the Cutting Blades, page 14.
- 4. Check the condition of the blade drive belt.
- 5. Grease the mower deck; refer to Greasing and Lubrication, page 16.
- 6. Check and tighten all bolts, nuts, and screws. Repair or replace any part that is damaged or defective.
- 7. Paint all scratched or bare metal surfaces. Paint is available from your Authorized Service Dealer.
- **8.** Store the machine in a clean, dry garage or storage area. Remove the key from the ignition switch and keep it in a memorable place. Cover the machine to protect it and keep it clean.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Causes		Corrective Action	
Abnormal vibration. 1. Cutting unbala		Cutting blades is bent or unbalanced.	1.	Install new cutting blades.
	2.	Blade mounting bolt is loose.	2.	Tighten blade mounting bolt.
	3.	Engine mounting bolts are loose.	3.	Tighten engine mounting bolts.
	4.	Loose engine pulley, idler pulley, or blade pulley.	4.	Tighten the appropriate pulley.
	5.	Engine pulley is damaged.	5.	Contact Authorized Service Dealer.
Blades does not rotate.	1.	Blade drive belt is worn, loose or broken.	1.	Install new blade drive belt.
	2.	Blade drive belt is off pulley.	2.	Install blade drive belt and check idler pulley and belt guides for correct position.
Uneven cutting height.	1.	Tire pressure is incorrect.	1.	Set tire pressure.
	2.	Mower is not level.	2.	Level mower from side-to-side and front-to-rear.
	3.	Underside of mower is dirty.	3.	Clean the underside of the mower.

