Welcome To The World Of
Mantis Gardening!

Here's your new Mantis
Tiller/Cultivator ... the lightweight
wonder that's "Changing the Way
Americans Garden."®

Unlike big tillers, your Mantis Tiller
weighs only 20 pounds. So it lifts
easily, handles smoothly, tills and
weeds precisely. And, unlike other
small tillers, it features serpentine
tines that churn soil to ten inches
depth. It creates a soft, smooth seed bed,
even in problem soil.

Once you know how to use your
tiller correctly, we guarantee you'll
love it. So first, please read this
manual. It shows, step by step, how
to use your tiller safely. Plus, it shows
how the Mantis Border Edger can
make light work of your edging needs.

If you have questions about any topic
in this Manual, or for the name of
your local dealer, call 1-800-366-6268
toll free, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to
5 p.m., Eastern Time, and ask for
Customer Service.

If you wish to order Mantis
Attachments, call 1-800-366-6268 toll
free and ask for our Sales Department.

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SAFETY RULES & WARNINGS

You will notice throughout this Owners Manual Safety Rules and Important Notes. Make sure you understand and obey these warnings for your own protection.

I. Special Safety Information

⚠️ WARNING • DANGER ⚠️
ATTENTION: THIS SYMBOL POINTS OUT OUR IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

WHEN YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL, ⚠️
HEED IT'S WARNING!! STAY ALERT!!

⚠️ WARNING • DANGER ⚠️
TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS, COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL.

FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY, AND/OR EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.

II. Safety & Warnings

⚠️ WARNING • DANGER ⚠️
IMPROPER USE OR CARE OF THIS TILLER/CULTIVATOR OR FAILURE TO WEAR PROPER PROTECTION CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY.

READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES FOR SAFE OPERATION AND ALL INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL.

WEAR HEARING AND EYE PROTECTION.

⚠️ WARNING: The Engine Exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.
III Safety Decal Identification

An important part of the safety system incorporated in this tiller are the warning and information decals found on various parts of the tiller. These decals must be replaced in time due to abrasion, etc. It is your responsibility to replace these decals when they become hard to read. The location and part numbers (P/N) of these decals are illustrated on page 27.

A WARNING • DANGER A

IF TILLER IS USED IMPROPERLY OR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED, THE USERS RISK SERIOUS INJURY TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.

READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO OPERATE THIS TILLER.

IV. Warnings - Do’s

Read and understand the owner’s manual. Pay particular attention to all sections regarding safety.

1. Always keep a firm grip on both handles while the tines are moving and/or the engine is running. BE AWARE!! The tines may coast after throttle trigger is released. Make sure tines have come to a complete stop and engine is off before letting go of the tiller.

2. Always maintain a firm footing and good balance, do not overreach while operating the tiller. Before you start to use the tiller check the work area for obstacles that might cause you to lose your footing, balance or control of the machine.

3. Always keep area clear of children, pets, and bystanders.

4. Always stay alert. Watch what you are doing and use common sense. Do not operate unit when fatigued.

5. Always dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry, they might get caught in moving parts. Use sturdy gloves. Gloves reduce the transmission of vibration to your hands. Prolonged exposure to vibration can cause numbness and other ailments. Wear non-skid footwear to ensure secure and proper footing.

6. Always wear ear and eye protection. Eye protection must meet ANSI Z 87.1. To avoid hearing damage we recommend hearing protection be worn whenever using the equipment.

7. Always keep a safe distance between two or more people when working together.

8. Always inspect your unit before each use and ensure that all handles, guards and fasteners are secure, operating, and in place.


10. Always store tiller in a sheltered area (a dry place) not accessible to children. The tiller as well as fuel should not be stored in a house.
V. Warnings - Don’ts

Don’t use tiller with one hand, keep both hands on handles with fingers and thumbs encircling the handles, while tines are moving, and engine is running.

Don’t overreach. Keep a good footing at all times.

Don’t attempt to clear tines while they are moving. Never try to remove jammed material before switching the engine off and making sure the tines have stopped completely.

Don’t allow children or incapable people to operate this tiller.

Don’t operate while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Don’t attempt to repair this tiller. Have repairs made by a qualified dealer or repairman. See that only original Mantis parts are used.

VI. Engine/Fuel Warnings - Do’s

Always use fresh gasoline in the fuel mixture. Stale gasoline can cause leakage.

Always pull starter cord slowly until resistance is felt. Then pull cord rapidly to avoid kickback and prevent arm or hand injury.

Always operate engine with spark arrestor installed and operating properly. The use of spark arrestor mufflers is required by law in the state of California (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code), as well as in other states or municipalities. Federal laws apply on federal lands.

VII. Engine/Fuel Warnings - Don’ts

Don’t fuel, refuel or check fuel while smoking, or near an open flame or other ignition source. Stop engine and be sure it is cool before refueling.

Don’t leave the engine running while the tiller is unattended. Stop engine before putting the tiller down or while transporting from one place to another.

Don’t refuel, start or run this Tiller indoors or in an improperly ventilated area.

Don’t run engine when electrical system causes spark outside the cylinder. During periodical checks of the spark plug, keep plug a safe distance from cylinder to avoid burning of evaporated fuel from cylinder.

Don’t check for spark with spark plug or plug wire removed. Use an approved tester.

Don’t crank engine with spark plug removed unless spark plug wire is disconnected. Sparks can ignite fumes.

Don’t run engine when the odor of gasoline is present or other explosive conditions exist.

Don’t operate the unit if gasoline is spilled. Clean up spill completely before starting engine.

Don’t operate your Tiller if there is an accumulation of debris around the muffler, and cooling fins.

Don’t touch hot mufflers, cylinders or cooling fins as contact may cause serious burns.
Your Mantis Tiller comes partially assembled. You must install only the handlebars, the carrying handle, and the tines. This will take just a few minutes if you follow the directions.

First, take all items out of the carton. But do not remove the cardboard from around the Tiller’s base.

The list at the right, shows the parts that come with your Tiller. Check to make sure you have them.

The bag of hardware is in the box containing the tines and Border Edger.

To assemble your Mantis Tiller, you’ll need two 7/16” wrenches or two adjustable wrenches. We suggest that you install all nuts and bolts only “finger tight” — that is, one-half to one full turn — until you’ve completed assembly. The nuts are self-locking, but you must use a wrench to tighten them completely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Key #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Upper Handle Without Throttle</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Upper Handle With Throttle</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lower Handles</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pair Tiller/Cultivator Tines</td>
<td>46/47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Engine Assembly (includes Fender Guard &amp; Worm-Gear Transmission)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Handle Brace</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plastic Carrying Handle</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bag of Hardware Containing:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Cap Screws</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Lock Nuts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Bolts (3&quot; long)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Tine Retaining Pins</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Handle Clamps</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Throttle Clip</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These numbers are the same numbers shown on the Parts Layout on page 27.
HOW TO ASSEMBLE LOWER HANDLES

To identify part numbers, see pages 6 and 27.

1. Use the protective cardboard sleeve to stabilize your Tiller. Stand the engine assembly (#7) up.

2. Lay the handle parts within easy reach. You'll need one of the handle clamps (#22) and one of the lower handles (#6). Note that the lower handles have a short leg on one end. (Picture 1.)

3. Fit the handle clamp along the outside of the short leg. Line up the holes on the clamp and the leg.

4. Choose one of the two 3-inch bolts (#23). Slide it through the first set of holes — near the elbow where the lower handle curves. (Picture 2.)

5. Now slide the other lower handle onto the 3-inch bolt. (Picture 3.) Fit the other clamp onto this other handle's short leg. Add a nut and tighten finger tight.

6. Locate the worm-gear housing. It starts just above — and extends down through — the Tiller's red Fender Guard. You'll notice that there's a recessed channel on either side of the housing's top. (Picture 4.)

7. Take the lower handles that you've just put together. Slide them into the two recessed channels.

⚠️ Make sure you insert them from the rear of the tiller (gasoline tank faces the operator) . . . so that the bolt fits along the back of the housing. (Picture 1 and 2, Page 8.)

8. Slide the second 3-inch bolt through the second set of holes in the short legs. Add a nut and tighten finger tight.
HOW TO ASSEMBLE UPPER HANDLES & PLASTIC CARRYING HANDLE.

1. Lightly squeeze the lower handles (#6) toward one another so that they line up with the two smaller holes on the carrying handle (#49). Then slide the carrying handle over and down the lower handles. It will rest about four to six inches above the engine. [Picture 1.]

2. Gently pull the lower handles out to their original position.

3. Slide the upper handle (#5) — the one with the throttle cable and wire — into either lower handle. [Choose the lower handle you prefer, depending on which hand, right or left, you’d rather use to press the throttle.] Use a Cap Screw (#11) and a Lock Nut (#12) to secure the upper handle in place. [Picture 2.]

4. Follow the same steps to install the other upper handle onto the other lower handle. [Picture 3.]

5. Use the clip (#15) to secure the throttle cable and wire in place on the lower handle. [Picture 4.]

6. Now install the Handle Brace. Line it up with the holes on the upper handles. Then insert a Cap Screw and a Lock Nut on either side. [Picture 5.]

7. Use a wrench to tighten Cap Screws and Lock Nuts.

8. Now use wrenches to tighten all nuts and bolts firmly and securely.

**Important Note:** Make sure you have installed the handles properly. When you stand behind your Tiller, holding the handles, you should face the gasoline tank.
Assembling the Tines For Tilling
1. Remove the cardboard from around your Tiller's base.
2. Slide the tines onto the axle shafts. The "D" hole goes on the outside.
3. Make sure you've installed the tines properly for tilling. Liten the tines to your fingers. When your palm faces the ground, your fingers curl down. Stand behind the Tiller and hold your hand next to the tines. Do the tine blades curl down, as your fingers do? If so, they are in the tilling position. (To switch to the cultivating position, see page 15.)
4. To secure each tine to the axle, insert a Tine Retaining pin.

Important Note: Before you use your Mantis Tiller, read the Safety Rules & Warnings on pages 3-5.

Mixing Fuel
Your Mantis tiller is powered by a commercial two-stroke, air cooled engine which requires a fuel mixture of gasoline and lubricating oil.

Use a mixture of 50 parts unleaded regular gasoline and 1 part two-stroke Mantis oil [50:1]. Use branded 89 octane [R+M+2] unleaded gasoline or gasohol (maximum 10% ethyl alcohol, no methyl alcohol.)

WARNING • DANGER
FUEL IS EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE. HANDLE IT WITH CARE. KEEP AWAY FROM IGNITION SOURCES. DO NOT SMOKE WHILE FUELING YOUR EQUIPMENT.

Your Mantis Tiller comes with a free pre-measured bottle of two-cycle engine oil. Here’s how to mix the oil with the gas:

1. Pour 1/2 of the gasoline into a safe container. Do not mix the fuel and oil in the engine fuel tank.
2. Add the pre-measured engine oil to the gasoline and mix. Then add the rest of the gasoline.
3. Screw the cap onto the gasoline can. Then swirl the can to blend the oil and gas.
4. Carefully pour the fuel mix into the tiller’s fuel tank. After putting the fuel tank’s cap back on, wipe up any spilled fuel from tank and gasoline can.

Important: Two stroke fuel separates and ages. Do not mix more than you will use in a month. Using old fuel can cause difficult starting or engine damage. Shake fuel container to thoroughly mix fuel before each use. Do not attempt to run your engine on gasoline only, use proper fuel mixture.

Need more pre-measured engine oil? You can order it directly from Mantis. Just call toll free 1-800-366-6268 and ask for our Sales Dept.

Remember...
- Always mix two-cycle oil with gasoline before fueling your tiller. Never, ever try your Tiller on gasoline alone. This will ruin your engine and void all warranties.
- Always use a clean gas can and always use unleaded gas.
- Never try to mix the oil and gasoline in the engine fuel tank.
- Always mix oil and gas in the proper proportions: one bottle of our pre-measured engine oil to one gallon of unleaded gasoline.
- Our engine-oil bottle may appear half full. But it contains just the right amount — 2.6 ounces of oil. Do not add additional oil. Do not use the bottle as a measuring device.

Important Note: Do Not use old or stale oil/gasoline mixture. Always use the proper oil/gasoline mixture. If you do not, your engine will suffer rapid, permanent damage. And you will void the engine warranty.
STARTING

To Start Your Tiller for the First Time:

1. Fill the fuel tank with the proper oil/gasoline mixture. (See previous section.)

2. Hand tighten the gasoline cap just until it’s snug.

3. Place the start/stop switch into the “start” position. (Picture 1.)

4. Pull out the choke button to close the engine choke. (Picture 2.)

5. Locate the plastic bubble on the upper right of the engine, in front of the fuel tank. This bubble is like a primer. It sends fuel into the carburetor, so your Tiller can start right up. Press the bubble until you see fuel flow through the fuel line. Since you’re starting “cold,” you may need to press 6 to 15 times. As soon as fuel starts flowing through the fuel line, stop pressing! (Picture 3.)

6. Pull the starter cord (Picture 4) slowly until resistance is felt. Then give the recoil starter cord a few short, brisk pulls — until the engine catches, coughs, or sputters. The first time you start your Tiller, you may need to pull at least three or four times before the engine catches. On later occasions, you’ll probably give fewer pulls. Note: When the choke is closed, never pull the cord more than seven or eight times. Over-pulling may cause flooding. Also, bear in mind that, when the engine catches, it only coughs or sputters.

7. Push in the choke button to open the choke. (Picture 5.)

8. Then pull the starter cord again. The engine should start and run.

Follow these steps whenever you are starting the engine “cold”, or when the engine has run dry and you have just added fuel. Remember, always use short, brisk pulls. Don’t give the cord a long, forceful yank.

Never use starting fluids as they will cause permanent engine damage. Using them will void the warranty.

Before you use the tiller, read the Safety & Warning rules on pages 3-6.
STARTING (continued)

Starting a Warm Engine
1. Slide ignition switch to START position.

2. Push choke button in to the RUN (open) position.

3. If there is no fuel in the clear return line, push primer bulb 3-4 times or until fuel is visible in the line.

4. Pull starter rope using short pulls, 1/2 to 2/3 of the rope length.

5. If engine fails to start in 4 pulls, use “First Time” starting procedure on page 10.

6. With engine running, and both hands on the handles, squeeze throttle trigger gradually to increase the engine speed and engage the tines.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A WARNING • DANGER A
IF ENGINE DOES NOT STOP WHEN SWITCH IS PUT IN THE STOP POSITION, RELEASE THE THROTTLE, ALLOW ENGINE TO IDLE.
PUT THE TILLER DOWN, AND PULL THE CHoke BUTTON OUT TO COLD START (CLOSED) POSITION.
CHECK AND RETURN IGNITION SWITCH TO ON POSITION BEFORE STARTING ENGINE AGAIN.

How to Stop the Engine
Simply push the start/stop switch to “stop.” (Picture 1.) This will stop the engine instantly. If it should ever fail to do so, just pull out the choke button. The engine will stop at once.

About the Choke
The choke controls the amount of air drawn into the engine. Your Tiller will run only if the choke is open — that is, if the choke button is pushed in.

A Special Feature (with the idle set properly and the engine running)
Even when the engine is running, the tines won’t turn unless you press the throttle lever on the handlebars. And, when you release the throttle lever, the tines will stop.

A Tip for Extending Your Engine’s Life
After you start the engine, let your Tiller warm up for a minute or two before you use it. Then, before you put your Tiller away, let it idle for a minute to give the engine a chance to cool down.

Picture 1.
If you follow the normal starting procedure, you should have no problem starting your Tiller. But, just in case you do have problems, here's what to do.

Make sure the start/stop switch is on "start." You'd be surprised how many people forget to push the switch into the "start" position.

If the switch was on "stop" when you pulled the cord, you may have flooded the engine.

- First, examine the spark plug. Use the special wrench that comes with our optional Mantis Handy Item Kit [Item #1422M] or a 3/4 inch spark-plug wrench. (Picture 1.)

- Remove the cap over the spark plug.

**Important Note: To avoid possible damage to the threads, do not try to remove the plug from a hot aluminum cylinder head.**

- Unscrew the spark plug. (Picture 2.)

**Starting a Flooded Engine**

1. If the end of the spark plug is wet, the engine may be flooded. Disconnect spark plug wire and remove plug. Use a paper towel or a clean rag to dry the spark plug. Then, with the spark plug out of the engine, pull the starter cord several times. Next, replace the spark plug. Use the wrench to tighten it and replace the cap. Next, pull the choke button out. Pull the starter cord three or four times until the engine coughs or sputters. Open the choke (push the choke button in) and pull the cord a few times. The engine should start and run.

2. If the end of the spark plug is dry, check to see if the fuel line is blocked. The fuel line runs from the fuel tank to the carburetor. Pull it off at the carburetor end. Fuel should drip slowly from the line. Wipe off any excess or spilled fuel.

   If fuel does not drip from the line, check the line for any bends or pinches. (Picture 3.) Kinks in the line restrict the flow of fuel to the engine. Just straighten out the line. Reconnect. Then follow the normal starting procedure.

   If fuel drips too freely, the line may be disconnected from the fuel filter. You'll find the fuel filter inside the fuel tank. Just re-attach the line to the filter, and put the filter back in the tank. Then follow the normal starting procedure.

**Here's Another Way to Start Your Mantis Tiller:**
If you follow the steps above and your engine still won't start, try this:

1. Push the switch to "start."
WHAT TO DO JUST IN CASE (continued)

2. Push in the choke button to open the choke.
3. Press the plastic bubble a few times.
4. Give the starter cord a few short, quick pulls. The engine should start and run.
5. If the engine does not start, then pull out the choke button to close the choke. Pull the starter cord a few more times. The engine should sputter or cough.
6. After the engine sputters, push the choke button in. Then pull the starter cord. The engine should start and run.
7. If the engine still does not start, repeat steps 2 through 6.
8. If the engine still does not start, call 1-800-366-6268 and ask for Customer Service or the name of your local Mantis dealer.

Important Note: Never use starting fluids. Starting fluids will cause permanent engine damage. Using them will void the warranty.

Important Note: Before you use your Mantis Tiller, read the Safety Rules & Warnings on pages 3-5.

GETTING YOUR TILLER TO YOUR GARDEN

Walk it.
Once your tiller is running, you can "walk" it to your garden. Just press the throttle lever gently and let the Tiller "tip-toe" across your yard on its tines. It won't hurt your lawn or driveway. (Picture 1.)

Carry it.
Make sure the engine is off. Then use one hand to grasp the convenient carrying handle. Use the other hand to hold the handlebars. (Picture 2.) Then lift your Tiller and carry it to your garden. Since it weighs only 20 pounds, it won't strain your muscles or tire you out!

Take It for a Ride!
You can easily transport your Mantis Tiller to a friend's or relative's house. Just empty the fuel tank. (This is crucial.) Then stow your Tiller in the trunk of your car or truck. It fits easily. And you can put it in and take it out without straining your back.

WARNING
Never carry your Tiller as the person in Picture 3 is doing. If you do, and the tines engage, you could suffer serious injury.
Now You’re Ready to Use Your Mantis Tiller.
If you’ve seen other tillers, your Mantis Tiller may surprise you. It tills best when you pull it backward! You see, when you pull your Mantis Tiller backward, you give extra resistance to the tines, so they dig deeper. (Picture 1.)
What’s more, when you go backward, you erase your footprints. So your soil stays light and fluffy. With other tillers, by contrast, you walk right over the soil you’ve just tilled, packing it down, so it’s less plantable.

Run Your Mantis Tiller like a Vacuum Cleaner.
Place your Tiller at the head of the row or area you want to till. Start it up. Then use an easy rocking motion.
First, pull your Tiller backward. Then, let it move forward just a little bit. Then pull it backward again. This will help you till deeper.
Keep repeating these steps until you’ve tilled an entire row. Start again on the next row. It’s much like running a vacuum cleaner! (Picture 2.)

You Can Even Control Depth.
For Deeper Tilling:
Move your Tiller slowly back and forth, as you would a vacuum cleaner. Work the same area over and over until you’ve dug to your desired depth.

For Shallow Tilling:
Switch the tines to the cultivating position. [See page 15 to learn how.] Then move your Tiller quickly over your soil surface.

For Big Weeds or Tough Roots:
Let your Tiller rock back and forth over the tough spot, until the tines slice through the weed or root. (Picture 3.)

Your Mantis Tiller Handles Special Tilling Projects.
Want to turn part of your lawn into a colorful flower border? Your Mantis Tiller makes it easy! Just run your Tiller back and forth until the sod begins to break up. Then continue tilling. Your Tiller will chop the clumps of sod until they’re fine. Then, it will work them into the soil. Pretty soon, you’ll have a soft, fresh planting bed.
How about a family-size vegetable garden?
Nowadays many gardeners prefer small gardens — especially in the suburbs, where space is at a premium. But, if you’re fortunate enough to own a large lot, you can create a bigger garden — a half acre or more. Here’s how:

1. First, hire someone with a tractor or big tiller to break ground for you. This is a one-time-only investment that’s well worth the small cost.

2. Then, use your Tiller to break up any remaining clumps of soil or sod. Unlike a tractor or big tiller, your Mantis Tiller is a precision tool. It will pulverize your soil into a smooth seed bed.

Your Mantis Tiller Makes Weeding a Pleasure!
As a tiller, your Mantis Tiller works the soil down to 10” deep. But, as a cultivator, it gently cultivates the surface, only 2” to 3” deep.

First, you must switch the tines to the weeding position. This takes less than a minute.

Then, your Mantis Tiller’s sharp “tine teeth” will slice up those pesky weeds, burying them as you go along. And, since the tines in this position won’t dig too deep, they won’t hurt your plants’ precious root systems.

The result? Your Tiller will cut your weeding time in half. And turn a tiresome chore into a pleasure.

How to Switch From Tilling to Cultivating Position
1. Make sure your Tiller is off.

2. Remove the retaining pins from the tines.

3. Remove the tines from the axle.

4. Place the right-side tine onto the left-side axle. Place the left-side tine onto the right-side axle. The “D” hole should be to the outside.

5. Here is how to make sure you’ve installed the tines properly. Stand behind the Tiller and hold your hand, palm up, next to the tines. Do the tine points curl up, as your fingers do? If so, they are in the correct cultivating position.

6. Reinsert the pins.
Now You’re Ready to Cultivate or Weed.

Guide your Tiller where you want to weed and start it up. Pull your Tiller backward slowly, then let it move forward a bit, in a gentle rocking motion. Watch it slice, shred, and bury those weeds!

Got tough weeds? Lighten your pressure on the throttle to slow your Tiller down. Then work back and forth until your Tiller chops up the weeds. It’s easy and effective!

Remember, any tiller will tangle in tall grass, stringy vines, or super-big weeds. So, if you have a “backyard jungle,” first use a knife, pruner, or brush cutter to chop up the overgrowth. If the tines become tangled anyway, **turn the engine off completely** before trying to clear them.

The optional Tine Detangler (Item #1322M) will clear tines in a jiffy. Call 1-800-366-6268 for details. (Ask for the Sales Department.)

**Your Mantis Tiller Will Weed Between Narrow Rows!**

Your Mantis Tiller is a precision weeder that easily fits in tight places. So don’t be afraid to weed anywhere: between plants and shrubs; in corners; against fences; on raised beds; in wide rows; even in very narrow rows.

Your Mantis Tiller weeds six* to nine inches wide. So you can run it in a tightly planted garden without damaging your delicate plants. That’s good news for suburban gardeners, who often have to plant rows close together!

* With optional Planter Furrower attachment (Item #6222M.)
MAINTENANCE

Check the Air Filter Often.
A wet or dirty air filter can affect the way your engine starts, performs, and wears. So, it's a good idea to check your air filter once a month.

If you work in dusty soil, or if you want to be on the safe side — then check your filter more often (for instance, before each use). But be sure to check it at least once a year, in the spring or fall. Clean or change it as needed.

How to Check, Clean, and Change the Air Filter
1. Loosen the wing nut on the side of the air-cleaner cover. (See Picture 1, or look up Key #21 in Air Cleaner Parts Assembly on page 28.)

2. Take off the cover. Make sure to clear the choke button. (Picture 2.)

3. The air filter is the white pad on the inside of the air-cleaner cover. Check whether it is soiled or moist.

4. If the air filter needs cleaning or no longer fits properly, remove it. Just lift an edge carefully and "peel" it out. (Picture 3.)

5. Use a brush to remove debris from the pad. Do not use solvents or cleaning chemicals.

6. If the air filter is so dirty that it won't come clean, you must replace it. Order a new one directly from our Customer Service Dept. Call 1-800-366-6268.

7. Insert your clean filter inside the air-cleaner cover. Important! Make sure filter is "seated" properly in the cover. The filter must fit snugly inside the rim that holds the filter in place. Installing the filter incorrectly will cause engine damage and void the warranty. Fit the cover back over the air cleaner. (Again, make sure to clear the choke button.)

8. Tighten the wing nut to secure the cover.

Note:
Please check the lip on the Air Cleaner Cover. If the lip is chipped or cracked, it should be replaced. This will prevent dirt from being ingested into the carburetor.
How to Check the Grease Level Inside the Worm-Gear Housing
When we built your Mantis Tiller, we lubricated the worm-gear housing thoroughly.

It is imperative that you inspect the grease level once a year. Simply remove the cover plate on the worm-gear housing. (Picture 1.) Then check to make sure the grease comes almost to the top of the housing. If it doesn’t, add lithium #0 grease (Item M9985.) This is the only way to add grease to the worm-gear housing. (Picture 2.) To purchase Mantis grease, call our Sales Dept. - 1-800-366-6268

Please do not overfill. Too much grease can create pressure, which could cause seals to fail or the clutch to slip.

Clear Blockages From the Fuel Line & Filter:
After you’ve used your Tiller for a few seasons, check for blockages in the fuel tank and fuel filter. Such blockages can keep your Tiller from starting.

Clear any blockages you see in the tank, fuel filter, or fuel line. Remember: The fuel filter is located inside the tank. (See Picture 3.) Then use the normal starting procedure to start your Tiller.
What to Do if Your Engine Idles Too High
What if your engine runs too fast ... or if the tines turn the instant you start the Tiller? You may need to adjust the idle screw. You'll find the idle screw (Key #29 under Carburetor on page 28) by itself right below the H and L screws. Gently turn it counter-clockwise. You'll know you've adjusted it correctly when the axles do not turn at low idle.

If you continue to have idle problems, you may need to adjust the throttle cable.

First, locate the metal triangle at the end of the throttle cable. The idle screw must touch this triangle. But, if the throttle cable's too tight, you'll see a gap between the idle screw and the triangle.

To fix this, loosen the top nut that holds the throttle cable in place. (Use a 10mm wrench or an adjustable wrench.) Then, slide the cable down until you close the gap between the triangle and the idle screw. (Picture 1)

Now, tighten the bottom nut that holds the throttle cable.

Locate the metal “button” on the triangle. This is the swivel. The large end of the throttle cable must be inside the slot in this swivel.

What to Do if Your Engine Runs “Rough”
When we built your Mantis Tiller, we adjusted the carburetor for top performance. But from time to time, it may need readjusting. If your engine runs “rough” or stalls out, the carburetor may be the cause.

1. Make sure the engine is shut off.

2. To identify the carburetor, look up Parts Assembly on page 28. Then find the identical part on your Tiller.

3. If you remove the air-cleaner cover, you'll see two letters stamped on the carburetor body: "H" (on the left) and "L" (on the right). They stand for “High-Speed Needle Valve” and “Low-Speed Needle Valve,” respectively (Key #16 & 15 under Carburetor on page 28). Lightly turn each screw clockwise until it's completely closed. (Picture 2)

4. Then, turn each screw counterclockwise very slowly — one full turn plus one-quarter turn, more or less.

Every season, you may need to readjust the H and L screws to ensure smooth running. You don't need to take off the air-cleaner cover. Just remove the tines and start the engine. While the engine is at low idle, slowly turn the L screw counterclockwise, until the engine sputters. Then slowly turn it clockwise until the engine sounds smoother.

Next, repeat the procedure for the H screw. But this time, squeeze the throttle and run the engine at high speed. This will make your Tiller run smoothly.
How to Reseat the Flange

At some point, you may find that the tines won't turn when you press the throttle. This may mean the engine isn't sitting all the way down on the worm-gear housing.

Perhaps you've been using your Tiller for several years. Or perhaps you've removed the engine for use with our hedge trimmer attachment, then replaced it. In either case, the flange bolt (Key #44, pg. 29) may have come loose and lifted the engine up.

If this happened, you'll notice a gap between the bottom of the engine flange (Key #42, pg. 29) and the top of the worm-gear housing. (Picture 1.)

To fix this, loosen the flange bolt. Take the engine off the worm-gear housing. Notice the hex head on top of the drive shaft (Key #28, pg. 27). Inside the flange housing, you'll find the clutch drum (Key #39, pg. 29). Make sure the hex head lines up with the clutch drum inside the flange housing.

Then put the engine back on the worm-gear housing. Make sure the plastic carrying handle is not under the fuel tank.

If you've followed these steps properly, there will be no gap between the engine flange and the worm-gear housing. (Picture 2.) Make sure you tighten the flange bolt!

Picture 1... Note how the engine doesn't sit all the way down on the transmission.

Picture 2... Note how the engine sits all the way down on the transmission.
Each fall — or before you store your Mantis Tiller for any long period — be sure to take these measures:

1. Do not store your Tiller with fuel still in it. Even under ideal conditions, stored fuel can start to go stale in 30 days. And, since stale fuel has a high gum content, it can clog the carburetor. This, in turn, will restrict fuel flow. So, when you're ready to store your Tiller, or will not be using it for more than 2 weeks, drain the fuel tank completely. (Picture 2.)

2. Next, restart the engine to make sure no fuel is left in the carburetor. Then run the engine until it stops. This will prevent gum deposits, and possible engine damage.

3. Disconnect spark plug wire and remove the spark plug. (Use the wrench that comes in our optional Handy Item Kit, Item #1422M. Or use a 19mm or 3/4" spark-plug wrench.) Pour about a teaspoon of clean, air-cooled, two-cycle oil through the spark-plug hole into the combustion chamber. (Picture 3.) Slowly pull the starter cord two or three times to coat the inside of the cylinder wall.

4. Inspect the spark plug, and, if necessary, clean it. If you need to replace it, buy a Champion - RCJ8Y, NGK - BPM6A, or Autolite - 2976. A replacement spark plug is included in the optional Handy Item Kit item# 1422M.

5. Install the spark plug, but leave the spark plug wire disconnected.

6. Clean the air filter as described on page 17.

7. Clean dirt, grass, and other materials from the entire machine.

8. Wipe the tines with oil or spray them with WD-40, to prevent rusting.

9. Oil the throttle cable and all visible moving parts. (Do not remove the engine cover.)

continued
10. Check the grease level in the worm-gear housing, as described on page 18.

11. Order new parts to replace any that are badly worn or broken. Just call 1-800-366-6268 and ask for Customer Service. But do it early, so you'll have the parts well before the next gardening season starts.

12. Store your Tiller — in an upright position — in a clean, dry place. (Picture 1, preceding page.)

13. Do you have fuel left over from last season? Dispose of it properly. Buy fresh oil and gasoline next season.

How to Prepare Your Mantis Tiller for Restarting

In the spring, when you take your Tiller out of storage, remove the spark plug. Pull the starter cord three or four times to clean oil from the combustion chamber. (Picture 1). Wipe oil from the spark plug. Place the spark plug back into the cylinder. Re-connect the spark plug wire back on the spark plug. Then follow the steps on pages 9 & 10 to refuel and restart your Tiller.

Again, Check the Carburetor.

If your Tiller won't restart in the spring — or if it lacks its usual power — the carburetor may need attention. Follow the steps on page 19 for adjusting the H and L screws. (Picture 2.)

Check the Spark Plug Too.

If your Tiller won't restart, or if it lacks full power, the spark plug may be at fault. Check to see if the plug is fouled with oily black deposits. Clean or replace it if it is. (Picture 3.)

Also, check whether the center electrode is rounded at the end, or if the ground electrode is worn. If either is the case, you should replace it with a Champion RCJ8Y, NGK - BPM6A, or Autolite 2976 spark plug. Use a 19mm or a 3/4" spark-plug wrench to install it. Adjust the plug gap 0.6 to 0.7 mm (.024 - .028 in.)

Caution: Do not overtighten the plug. The correct torque is 18 to 22 ft.-lbs.

Important Note: To avoid possible damage to the threads, do not try to remove the plug from a hot aluminum cylinder head.
# Troubleshooting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Remedy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tines don't turn when throttle is depressed.</td>
<td>Engine is not seated properly on the gear housing.</td>
<td>Re-install engine following the instructions on page 20 [How to re-seat the flange].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Engine hard to start.</td>
<td>Water in gasoline or stale fuel mixture. Too much oil in fuel mixture. Engine under or over choked. Carburetor out of adjustment. Gasket leaks (carburetor or cylinder base gasket). Weak spark at sparkplug.</td>
<td>Drain entire system and refill with fresh fuel. Drain and refill with correct mixture. If flooded by over choking, proceed according to instructions in operation section. If under choked, move choke lever to closed position and crank two or three times. See “Carburetor Adjustment” Replace gaskets. Call Mantis Customer Service for nearest authorized dealer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Engine misses.</td>
<td>Dirt in fuel line or carburetor. Carburetor improperly adjusted. Sparkplug fouled, broken or incorrect gap setting. Weak or intermittent spark at spark plug.</td>
<td>Remove and clean. See “Carburetor Adjustment”. Clean or replace spark plug - set gap to 0.6-0.7 mm (.024-.028 in.) Call Mantis Customer Service for nearest authorized dealer.</td>
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</table>
### TROUBLE SHOOTING (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Remedy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5. Engine lacks power. | Air filter clogged.  
Carburetor out of adjustment.  
Muffler clogged.  
Clogged exhaust ports.  
Spark Arrestor clogged  
Poor compression. | Clean or replace air filter.  
See “Carburetor Adjustment”.  
Clean carbon from muffler.  
Remove muffler, rotate engine until the piston is at top of cylinder. With a wooden scraper or blunt tool, remove all carbon from exhaust ports.  
Be careful not to scratch or damage piston or cylinder walls. Blow out all loose carbon with compressed air. Install muffler and gasket.  
Clean Spark Arrestor  
Call Mantis Customer Service for nearest authorized dealer. |
Air flow obstructed. | Mix fuel as described in starting instructions.  
Clean flywheel, cylinder fins and screen. |
| 7. Engine noisy or knocking. | Spark plugs incorrect heat range.  
Worn bearings, piston ring or cylinder walls. | Replace with plugs specified for engine.  
Call Mantis Customer Service for nearest authorized dealer. |
| 8. Engine stalls under load. | Carburetor adjustment too “lean”.  
Engine overheats. | See “Carburetor Adjustment”.  
Remove dust and dirt from between fins. |

### ENGINE SPECIFICATIONS

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<th>Specification</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dry Weight</td>
<td>2.5 kg — 5 lbs., 10 ounces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Engine</td>
<td>Air Cooled, Two stroke, Single-Cylinder, Gasoline Engine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotation</td>
<td>Counterclockwise, viewed from TOP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bore</td>
<td>32.2 mm (1.268 in.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>26.0 mm (1.04 in.)</td>
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<td>Spark Plug</td>
<td>NGK BPM6A, CHAMPION-RCJ-8Y, AUTOLITE-2976</td>
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<td>Fuel</td>
<td>Premixed two stroke fuel</td>
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<td>Fuel Oil Ratio</td>
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<td>Ignition System</td>
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<td>Starter</td>
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<td>Oil</td>
<td>Designated, two-stroke, air-cooled engine oil</td>
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<td>Fuel Tank Capacity</td>
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<td>Starter System Clutch</td>
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<td>Starter Rope</td>
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**IMPORTANT**- Time Intervals shown are maximum. Actual use and your experience will determine the frequency of required maintenance.

**Notes:**

________________________________________________________________________
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USING THE BORDER EDGER ATTACHMENT

Your Mantis Tiller has been designed and built to accept a wide range of Mantis Tiller Attachments to increase its usefulness in your lawn and garden. And, all Mantis Tiller Attachments have been designed for quick and easy attachment to the Tiller or Engine.

The Border Edger
(Item #3222M)
The Most popular attachment, the Border Edger can be used to cut clean, neat edges along walkways, or around trees, shrubs, and garden beds.

The Border Edger has two parts: a wheel and a hardened steel blade, with pointed tines.

How to Install the Border Edger
The following instructions refer to “right” and “left” axles. Assume that you’re standing behind your Tiller, as you would for tilling and cultivating.

Some areas of your yard may harbor roots and other underground obstructions. In places like this you’ll want to edge your borders shallowly [1” to 2” deep]. Here’s how to install the Border Edger for shallow edging:

1. First remove your tilling/cultivating tines.
2. Then slide the Edger’s wheel onto the right axle.
3. Now slide the Edger blade onto the left axle. The blade’s angled face should hit the ground when you spin the blade forward.
4. Insert retaining pins on both left and right axles.

Around walkways and garden beds, you’ll want to edge more deeply [3” to 4” deep]. Here’s how to install the Border Edger for that purpose:

1. Remove the tilling/-cultivating tines.
2. Slide the Edger’s blade onto the right axle. The blade’s pointed face should hit the ground when you spin the blade forward.
3. Slide the wheel onto the left axle.
4. Insert retaining pins on both sides.

How to Use the Border Edger
1. Position your Mantis Tiller so that the Edger blade is right along the garden edge and the wheel is outside (on the lawn, on the sidewalk, wherever). (Picture 1.)

2. Start your Tiller and pull your Mantis backward along the garden edge. (Picture 2.)

The Border Edger Can Handle Special Projects!
1. Install the Edger for deep edging, as directed above. Then use it to cut sod strips.
2. Edge and weed at the same time! Just attach the Edger blade on one axle and a Tiller tine on the other axle, “Mix and match” blades; don’t be afraid to experiment.

Important Note: If you do a lot of edging, you’ll appreciate the Mantis Wheel Set (Item #9222M.) It gives you added stability, for even easier handling.

To order the Wheel Set, or any Mantis Attachment, call 1-800-366-6268, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 9 pm, Eastern Time. Ask for the Sales Department.
MANTIS TILLER ASSEMBLY

Tine Identification

When you look at a Tine with the raised hub facing you and the teeth are pointing in a CLOCKWISE rotation, you have a LEFT HAND TINE.

When you look at a Tine with the raised hub facing you and the teeth are pointing in a COUNTER CLOCKWISE rotation, you have a RIGHT HAND TINE.

*Does not include Key #28 or #48 w/transmission
SV-4(B) ENGINE PARTS ASSEMBLIES

Carburetor

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<th>PART. NO.</th>
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<td>Swivel</td>
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A- Part No. 125303-06660 -
Gasket/Diaphragm/Kit consists of the following:
Key Numbers - 3, 4, 22 and 23.

B- Part No.125300-06660 - Repair Kit consists of the following:
Key Numbers - 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 21, 22, and 23.

Air Cleaner, Muffler, & Throttle

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<td>178043-05230</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spring Throttle Return</td>
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</table>
THE MANTIS PROMISE

Try any product you buy from Mantis with NO-RISK! If you're not completely satisfied, send it back to us within one year for a complete, no-hassle refund

Tines Guaranteed Never to Break!
Our tines not only work better than the rest; they're also guaranteed for life against breakage. If any tine ever breaks in normal use, send the broken tine back to us and we'll send you a replacement tine FREE!

Two-year Warranty
All components of the Mantis Tiller/Cultivator are warranted for a period of two full years from the date of purchase. If any part fails to work because of defects in materials or workmanship, we will repair or replace the part at no charge to you.

Lifetime Factory Service
If you ever need Mantis parts, we'll get them right out to you. Usually shipped within 48 hours. (and, if a major repair is ever required, we'll do it quickly and reasonably.)

Always call first — 1-800-366-6268 — to receive your Return Authorization number.

Please have this information when you call:
1. Date of purchase
2. Date machine was first used
3. Serial Number, located on top of engine
4. Customer number, if available

PLEASE CALL US FIRST!
If you are having any trouble with any Mantis product, please call us TOLL-FREE at 1-800-366-6268. Ask for the Customer Service Dept. Usually, we can solve most problems over the phone.

IF YOU NEED TO RETURN A PRODUCT - CALL FIRST
Very few customers ever need to return a Mantis product, but just in case you have to...here are some simple instructions that will help us serve you quicker and better.

Please clean the product if it has been used. (Drain the tank and remove dirt from machine).
Give us as much information as possible, so that we can help you as quickly as possible.

Please provide the following information and send this completed form with your product.

Name ___________________________ Phone: Day ( ) ____________________
Address ___________________________ 
Evening ( ) ____________________
City State Zip ___________________________ 
Customer No: ____________________
(Product(s) being returned)

What do you want us to do?  ○ Repair  ○ Refund  ○ Other ____________________

If you are requesting a refund, please tell us why:
○ Product is different than I expected  ○ Not satisfied with performance
○ Not satisfied with quality  ○ Other ____________________

For repair service, please continue on other side of this form.
Mantis extends only to the original consumer purchaser a limited warranty against defects in material and workmanship for a period of two years from date of purchase. This warranty covers all portions of the MANTIS Tiller.

MANTIS will repair or, at its option, replace any defective part or parts of the product free of charge. In the event of a defect or malfunction, the purchaser must send the product, postage prepaid, to Warranty Department, Mantis, 1028 Street Rd., Southampton, PA 18966.

MANTIS assumes no responsibility in the event that the product was assembled or used in contravention of any assembly, care, safety, or operating instructions contained in the Owner's Manual; was not used with reasonable care; or was used for other than normal and intended purposes.

MANTIS MAKES NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATION EXCEPT THOSE CONTAINED HEREIN. THE DURATION OF ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY, INCLUDING MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, IS LIMITED TO THE DURATION OF THE EXPRESS WARRANTY. MANTIS DISCLAIMS ALL LIABILITY FOR INDIRECT AND/OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS AND/OR DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THAT ABOVE LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

Mantis
1028 Street Road
Southampton, PA 18966
(215) 355-9700

Specifications, descriptions, and illustrative material in this literature are as accurate as known at the time of publication, but are subject to change without notice.

If you are returning a product for repair or for a repair cost estimate, please tell us what appears to be broken or what performance needs to be improved:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Disassemble and pack your product in the original shipping carton or any other strong corrugated box. Ship the returned product prepaid by UPS or USPS [Post Office].

FOR REPAIR or REFUNDS:
MANTIS
1028 STREET RD.
SOUTHAMPTON, PA 18966