

## Summer machinery storage pays off

LANCASTER — Do you bother to store idle equipment during warmer weather? In some respects, a sunny June day can be just as detrimental to a tractor as a damp, cold day in December.

Larry Johnson, Massey-Ferguson Service Training Manager, stresses the importance of proper storage during spring, summer and fall. According to storage plus proper maintenance can protect a tractor heat, moisture, dust and mud.

"When you first take a tractor out of winter storage in the spring, mud can be a real problem," the MF specialist says. "This is a time when you should be especially concerned about the tractor's appearance. Keep it clean. After a

day in the field, clean off the mud that can build up from that day's use, then park it in a shed."

This routine procedure does more than maintain a good appearance. "A tractor's engine has many breathers which allow air flow for cooling," Johnson explains. "Mud can clog those breathers, resulting in engine over-heating."

With the arrival of summer, hot sun and dust are threatening elements. "Accumulation of dust in any of the tractor's hoses, or in air ducts, can cause complete engine failure in just a couple of hours," Johnson warns. "Dust can also damage roller bearings — again, resulting in extensive and

costly repairs.

Johnson notes that parking equipment under cover when not in use helps prevent dust from settling on vital engine parts. Cover also provides shade, which will help prevent the tractor's hoses from cracking. Extended periods of bright sunlight and heat can damage both hoses and tires, and harm a machine's paint job.

"Although manufacturers have developed new paints which are more resistant to wear, sunlight can still cause some fading or

flaking," he says. "Touch-up the paint job if this happens. This will help prevent rust, and will maintain the appearance of the machine. Protect your sizeable investment in equipment. Good looking paint makes the tractor look well cared for, and that can make a tremendous difference in resale value."

As summer changes to fall, damper conditions arrive. Johnson cites rust as the primary threat to equipment during this period. He suggests keeping tractors clean

and dry when not in use and keeping the paint touched up.

Driving a tractor to storage facilities at the end of a day may seem like a waste of time and fuel, but it can pay off. Johnson adds that besides protection from weather, storing your equipment indoors discourages thieves.

"If a tractor is left in the field or on some dark back road, it is very susceptible to vandalism or theft," he says. "We're talking about expensive equipment. You can't afford to take any chances."

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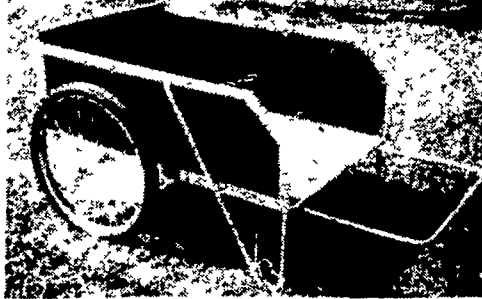
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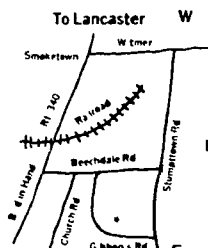


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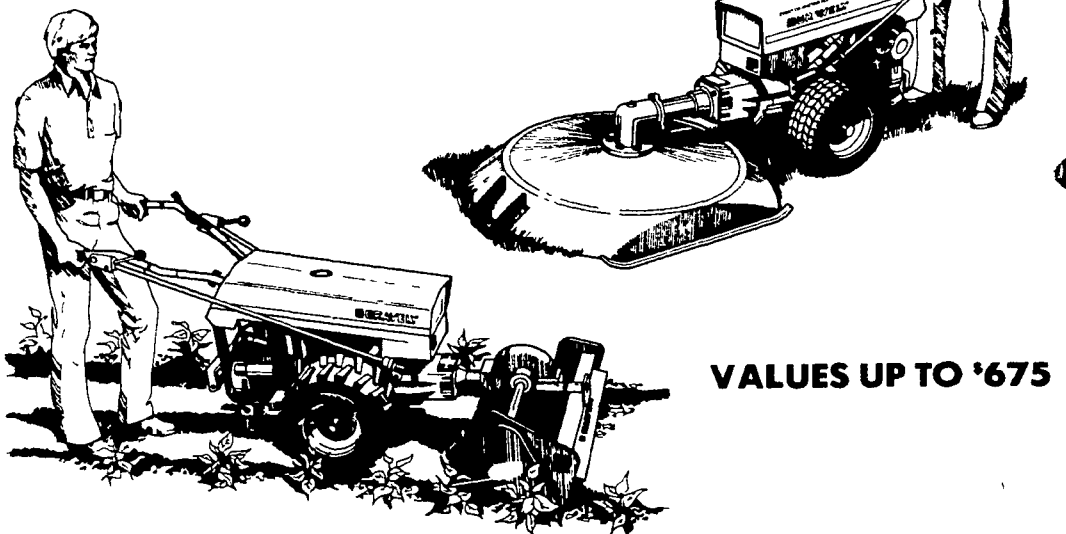
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