

Craftsman Tiller Model 917 Manual

SEARS
OWNER'S
MANUAL

MODEL NO.
917.298352

Caution:
Read and follow
all Safety Rules
and Instructions
Before Operating
This Equipment



CRAFTSMAN®

**5.0 HP
24 INCH TINE WIDTH
FRONT TINE TILLER**

- Assembly
- Operation
- Customer Responsibilities
- Service and Adjustment
- Repair Parts

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO., HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60195 U.S.A.

Craftsman Tiller Model 917 Manual is an essential resource for anyone who owns this powerful gardening tool. The Craftsman tiller is designed to make soil cultivation easier and more efficient, ensuring that gardening enthusiasts can maintain their landscapes with minimal effort. This article serves as a comprehensive guide to the Craftsman tiller model 917, detailing its features, maintenance tips, troubleshooting advice, and much more.

Overview of Craftsman Tiller Model 917

The Craftsman tiller model 917 is a versatile gardening machine that allows users to cultivate their garden beds with ease. This tiller is equipped with a robust engine and durable tines, making it suitable for various soil types, from sandy to clay. With its user-friendly design and reliable performance,

the Craftsman tiller model 917 is a popular choice among both amateur and professional gardeners.

Key Features

The Craftsman tiller model 917 boasts several features that enhance its usability and efficiency:

- **Powerful Engine:** The tiller is typically equipped with a 5 to 6 HP engine, providing ample power for breaking up hard soil.
- **Tine Design:** The model features heavy-duty tines that can penetrate deep into the soil, allowing for effective tilling and aeration.
- **Adjustable Tilling Width:** Users can adjust the tilling width to suit their gardening needs, ranging from narrow paths to larger areas.
- **Variable Speed Control:** Many models come with variable speed settings, enabling users to control the tilling speed based on the soil condition.
- **Ergonomic Handles:** The tiller is designed with comfort in mind, featuring adjustable handles that reduce strain during operation.

Operating the Craftsman Tiller Model 917

Proper operation of the Craftsman tiller model 917 is crucial for achieving the best results. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to operate the tiller effectively:

Preparation Before Use

1. **Read the Manual:** Always read the owner's manual thoroughly to understand the specific features and functions of your tiller.
2. **Check Fuel and Oil:** Ensure that the tiller has enough fuel and oil before starting. Use the recommended fuel type as specified in the manual.
3. **Inspect the Tines:** Check the tines for any damage or wear. Replace them if necessary to ensure optimal performance.
4. **Clear the Area:** Remove any debris, rocks, or sticks from the area you plan to till to prevent damage to the machine or injury.

Starting the Tiller

1. **Set the Throttle:** Adjust the throttle to the "start" position.
2. **Engage the Safety Switch:** Ensure that the safety switch is engaged before attempting to start the engine.
3. **Pull the Starter Rope:** Firmly pull the starter rope until the engine starts. If the engine does not start, repeat the process.
4. **Adjust Speed:** Once the engine is running, adjust the speed according to your requirements.

Tilling Technique

To achieve the best tilling results, follow these tips:

- Start at the Edge: Begin tilling from the edge of your garden bed and work your way inward.
- Overlap Passes: Slightly overlap each pass to ensure even coverage and avoid missing spots.
- Adjust Tilling Depth: If the soil is particularly hard, make multiple passes at varying depths instead of trying to till deeply all at once.
- Take Breaks: If you are working on a large area, take breaks to avoid fatigue, which can lead to accidents.

Maintenance Tips for Craftsman Tiller Model 917

Regular maintenance is key to prolonging the life of your Craftsman tiller model 917. Here are some essential maintenance tasks:

Routine Maintenance

1. Clean the Tines: After each use, clean the tines to remove soil and debris. This prevents rust and ensures optimal performance.
2. Change the Oil: Change the oil as recommended in the manual, typically after every 25 hours of operation or once a season.
3. Inspect the Air Filter: Check the air filter regularly and clean or replace it as needed to ensure proper airflow to the engine.
4. Sharpen or Replace Tines: Inspect the tines for wear and sharpen or replace them as necessary to maintain effective tilling.

Seasonal Maintenance

- Winter Storage: Before storing your tiller for the winter, drain the fuel, clean it thoroughly, and cover it to protect it from dust and moisture.
- Spring Check-Up: Before the tilling season begins, check all components, including belts, cables, and tires, to ensure everything is in working order.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Even with proper maintenance, you may encounter some common issues while using the Craftsman tiller model 917. Here are some troubleshooting tips:

Engine Won't Start

- Check Fuel: Ensure that there is enough fuel in the tank and that it's fresh.
- Inspect the Spark Plug: A dirty or faulty spark plug can prevent the engine from starting. Clean or replace it if necessary.
- Review Safety Switch: Make sure the safety switch is engaged; if it's not, the engine will not start.

Poor Tilling Performance

- **Examine Tines:** Dull or damaged tines can hinder performance. Sharpen or replace them as required.
- **Adjust Tilling Depth:** If the tiller isn't digging deep enough, adjust the depth settings or make multiple passes.

Excessive Vibration

- **Check for Loose Parts:** Inspect the tiller for any loose bolts or components that may cause excessive vibration.
- **Balance the Tines:** Ensure that the tines are balanced and not worn unevenly, which can lead to vibration during operation.

Conclusion

The Craftsman tiller model 917 is a powerful tool that can significantly enhance your gardening efforts. By understanding its features, following proper operating procedures, and adhering to maintenance guidelines, you can ensure your tiller remains in excellent condition for years to come. Whether you are preparing a new garden bed, aerating the soil, or mixing in compost, the Craftsman tiller model 917 will serve as a reliable companion in your gardening journey. Make the most of this versatile machine and enjoy the fruits of your labor in a flourishing garden.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the manual for Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

You can find the manual for Craftsman Tiller Model 917 on the official Craftsman website or by searching for it on online manual repositories.

What types of maintenance are recommended for Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

Regular maintenance includes changing the oil, replacing air filters, checking spark plugs, and ensuring the tines are sharp and free of debris.

How do I troubleshoot starting issues with my Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

Check the fuel level, inspect the spark plug for wear, ensure the kill switch is in the correct position, and examine the battery connections if applicable.

What is the fuel-to-oil ratio for Craftsman Tiller

Model 917?

The Craftsman Tiller Model 917 typically requires a 50:1 ratio of fuel to oil for optimal performance. Always refer to the manual for specifics.

Can I use my Craftsman Tiller Model 917 on rocky soil?

While the Craftsman Tiller Model 917 can handle many soil types, using it on rocky soil may damage the tines. It's best to remove large rocks before tilling.

What accessories are compatible with Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

Compatible accessories include various tiller tines, replacement blades, and protective covers. Check the manual for specific recommendations.

How can I adjust the tilling depth on my Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

To adjust the tilling depth, locate the depth adjustment lever or knob on the tiller and set it to your desired level as per the instructions in the manual.

What is the warranty coverage for Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

The warranty coverage may vary, but Craftsman typically offers a limited warranty on their tillers. Check your manual or the Craftsman website for specific details.

Is it safe to operate Craftsman Tiller Model 917 in wet conditions?

It is not recommended to operate the tiller in wet conditions as it can lead to poor performance and increased risk of slipping or accidents.

How do I winterize my Craftsman Tiller Model 917?

To winterize, drain the fuel, clean the tines, change the oil, and store the tiller in a dry place, ideally covered to protect it from dust and moisture.

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