

TROUBLESHOOTING
THE ENGINE
Service Manual 8-55130



Ingersoll . . . the new name to say for Case garden tractors.

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INTRODUCTION

This service manual section, "Troubleshooting the Engine" contains a concise listing of Symptom-Possible Cause--Probable Remedy for many engine problems.

Use an orderly process of elimination when troubleshooting. First eliminate the possible causes that are easy to check or test. Then move into the more complex areas that may require disassembly or more difficult tests. Refer to the appropriate service manual for proper repair procedures. Refer to the electrical system service manual for troubleshooting the tractor electrical system. (The ignition system is the only electrical area covered in this service manual.)



A. ENGINE FAILS TO START - FUEL RELATED (ENGINE CRANKS PROPERLY)

CAUSE

- 1. No fuel in tank.
- 2. Water in fuel.
- 3. Fuel shut off valve closed (if equipped).
- Vent in fuel tank cap restricted or wrong cap on tank.
- 5. Obstructed fuel line, filter screen in tank outlet fitting or auxiliary filter.
- 6. Fuel line collapsed, pinched or kinked.
- 7. Fuel line routed "high" preventing flow on gravity feed systems.
- 8. Fuel line loose at fuel pump inlet or connected to wrong nipple.
- 9. Faulty fuel pump. (Pump worn, damaged or misassembled.)
- If equipped with a vacuum operated fuel pump.
 Vacuum line between fuel pump and engine block loose or leaking. (For Model 646 - vacuum line filling with oil.)
- 11. If equipped with a vacuum operated fuel pump.

 Lack of crankcase vacuum.
- 12. Vapor lock.
- 13. Improper carburetor adjustments.
- 14. Excessively lean mixture.
- 15. Engine overchoked (flooded).
- 16. Dirt in needle valve.
- 17. Float sticking in carburetor bowl.

REMEDY

Fill tank with clean, fresh fuel.

Drain tank, lines, carburetor. Fill tank with clean, fresh fuel. Dry spark plug(s).

Open fuel shut off valve.

Clean vent. Use properly vented cap.

Clean or replace fuel line or filter as required.

Route fuel line to eliminate kinks and pinch points. Replace soft rubber hose with one with fabric reinforcement if required.

Route fuel line to eliminate "high" points and air locks.

Secure fuel line with a good hose clamp, check connections and change if incorrect.

Repair or replace fuel pump as required. Inspect diaphragm, spring and check valves (or reed valves).

Replace, reposition, or clamp vacuum line as required.

Measure crankcase vacuum with "U" - tube manometer. If crankcase is pressurized, clean breather, check for air leaks and excessive blowby.

Check for leaking exhaust connections, plugged cooling air screen of fins or other causes of high under hood temperatures.

Adjust carburetor.

- a. Choke not closing. Check for loose clip (Onan) or interference with hood (Kohler).
- b. Carburetor gasket or intake manifold gaskets leaking. Cracked intake manifold. Repair or replace as required.

Open choke. Dry spark plug electrodes or let engine stand for 15 to 30 minutes. Check for plugged air cleaner.

Clean needle valve/seat.

Inspect float. (Foam floats used in some Model 446, 448, 648 can swell and stick if fuel containing alcohol is used.)



B. ENGINE FAILS TO START - NO SPARK - ENGINE CRANKS PROPERLY

CAUSE

- 1. Fouled or faulty spark plug.
- High tension lead grounded or open (or high resistance in lead).
- 3. On battery ignition models wire from coil "-" terminal to points open or shorted to ground.
- 4. On battery ignition models no battery voltage to coil "+" terminal.
- 5. a. Points dirty or corroded.
 - b. Points oily.
- 6. Points not opening and closing.
- 7. Condenser shorted to ground or open.
- 8. Defective coil.
- For magneto ignition models (and 444 1969 solid state only). Magneto (kill) wire grounded.
- For magneto ignition models loose or defective magneto wiring or magneto.

REMEDY

Clean and re-gap or replace spark plug. Change oil if raw fuel has diluted it.

Test high tension lead for continuity. Replace if necessary. (On Kohler equipped tractors check for clearance and possible grounding between hood and spark plug boot.)

Check for opens and shorts to ground. Replace wire if required. (Open points prior to this check.)

Check for open circuit to coil "+" terminal.

- a. Clean or replace points.
- Eliminate source of oil. Crankcase pressure. Seal screw threads (Onan). Worn plunger or plunger hole.

Check for stuck or worn point push rod. Set point gap.

Test and replace condenser. (Engine may run erratically if condenser is open.)

Replace coil.

Check for shorts to ground and a defective key switch. Replace wire or switch as required.

Check magneto wiring for shorts or grounds - check timing and point gap. Repair if necessary.



C. ENGINE FAILS TO START - COMPRESSION RELATED

NOTE: If using a compression gauge be sure to:

- a. have choke and throttle fully open and air cleaner element removed.
- b. have battery fully charged.
- c. have engine warm (or at room temperature).

CAUSE

- 1. Head gasket leaking.
- 2. Valve stuck open or leaking.

- 3. Worn rings and cylinder bore.
- 4. Automatic compression release not closing (Kohler equipped tractors).
- 5. Excessive paracitic load.

REMEDY

Replace head gasket. Tighten cylinder head bolts to specified torque. Replace bolts or studs if torque does not hold. Check for warp in head or block.

- a. Remove head. Check for burned or leaking valve.
- b. Remove head. Check for foreign object or deposits trapped between valve and seat.
- c. Check for proper valve lash adjustment.
- d. Check for loose keeper or other obstruction in valve chamber.
- e. If valve sticks open only when hot, remove valve and ream valve guides.

Hone or rebore engine as required. Wash thoroughly with soap and water. Replace piston/rings as required.

Repair automatic compression release.

Check for winter starting requirements - Light weight oil, etc. Check for hyd. PTO engaged. Kohler - check for ACR not opening.



D. ENGINE MISFIRES

CAUSE

- 1 Condenser connected to wrong coil terminal, faulty condenser, or condenser missing.
- 2. Spark plug gap too narrow.
- 3. Point gap wrong or dirty.
- 4. Point push rod worn or sticking.
- 5. Wrong coil installed.
- 6. Improper carburetor adjustment.
- 7. Carburetor or manifold gasket leaking.
- 8. Improper valve clearance.
- Weak valve spring, valve sticking in guide or wrong spring installed. Valve keeper loose or dislodged.

REMEDY

Condenser must be connected to the coil "-" terminal. This is the same terminal as the wire to the breaker points. Replace condenser if faulty.

Set spark plug gap to .35" for Kohler engines. Use correct spark plug and spark plug gap. Check specifications.

Clean points, set proper gap.

Clean or replace rod as required.

Check specifications. Install correct coil.

Adjust carburetor.

Check and tighten or replace gasket as required. Tighten to proper torque only.

Adjust valve clearance.

Replace valve spring or ream valve guide as required. Check keepers.



E. ENGINE LACKS POWER

CAUSE

- 1. Lack of lubrication or crankcase overfull.
- 2. Choke partially closed.
- 3. Dirty air cleaner.
- 4. Improper carburetor adjustment.
- 5. Carburetor dirty or damaged.
- Improper governor adjustment or governor malfunctioning.
- Ignition improperly timed. Faulty coil, dirty points or push rod sticking.
- 8. Head gasket leaking.
- 9. Valves leaking.
- 10. Worn piston rings or bore.
- Twin cylinder engine firing on one cylinder only.
- 12. Excessive paracitic load on engine.
- 13. 10 HP Kohler only low compression cylinder head.
- 14. Carbon in combustion chamber.

REMEDY

Fill crankcase to the proper level.

Open choke.

Clean or replace air cleaner.

Adjust carburetor.

Clean and repair carburetor.

Check governor adjustment and function.

Adjust ignition timing. Check coil and push rod. Clean or replace points.

If head or cylinder not warped, replace gasket. Tighten head bolts to proper torque.

Grind valves and valve seats.

Replace piston rings. Hone or rebore engine as required.

Check for cause and repair.

Check hydraulic connections, mower bearings, etc.

Remove head and check depth. Should be .022" to 0.32" (0.56 to 0.81 mm) deep.

Remove cylinder head and clean carbon from head and piston.



F. ENGINE OVERHEATS

CAUSE

- 1. Air flow obstructed.
- 2. Cooling fins clogged.
- 3. One or more air cooling baffles missing.
- 4. Leaking exhaust system allowing recirculation of hot air.
- 5. Excessive load on engine.
- 6. Lack of lubrication/or crankcase overfull.
- 7. Engine running at reduced throttle setting and lugging.
- 8. Carburetor improperly adjusted.
- 9. Ignition improperly timed.
- 10. Carbon in combustion chamber.
- 11. Valves not opening fully.

REMEDY

Remove any obstructions from air passages in shrouds and tractor heat exchanger if equipped.

Remove sheet metal and clean cooling fins.

Install all air baffles properly.

Seal exhaust system.

Check operation of associated equipment. Reduce excessive load. Reduce ground speed, raise mower, check for seized pulley bearings, etc.

Fill crankcase to proper level.

Advance throttle to prevent engine form lugging. Reduce excessive load.

Adjust carburetor.

Adjust ignition timing. (Use automotive timing light.)

Remove cylinder head and clean carbon from head and piston.

Adjust lash. Check for worn cam shaft lobes.



G. ENGINE SURGES, RUNS UNEVENLY OR STOPS AFTER A SHORT TIME

NOTE: A small amount of governor hunting or surging is normal when the engine is under no load.

CAUSE

- SEE "ENGINE FAILS TO START" SECTION OF THIS MANUAL.
- 2. Governor sensitivity spring in wrong hole.
- 3. Governor parts binding.
- 4. Carburetor throttle shaft binding.

REMEDY

Install spring correctly.

Repair governor parts as required.

Clean, lubricate or deburr throttle shaft as required.

H. ENGINE VIBRATES EXCESSIVELY OR NORMAL VIBRATION TRANSMITTED TO TRACTOR FRAME

CAUSE

- 1. Low idle speed too slow.
- 2. Engine not securely mounted.
- 3. Associated equipment out of balance.
- 4. Loose blade adapter and/or pulley.
- Excessive run out of attachment drive clutch hub.
- 6. Loose flywheel:
- 7. Bent crankshaft.
- Worn balance gear bearings (early Kohler 14 HP).
- 9. Attachment drive clutch guide hitting oil pan.
- Mounting bolts backed out and touching tractor frame.

REMEDY

Adjust idle speed to correct RPM.

Tighten loose mounting bolts. Check for worn rubber mounts.

Check associated equipment.

Tighten loose parts.

Inspect surface where hub mounts to flywheel. Replace hub or remove burrs from flywheel as required.

Inspect crankshaft, flywheel, and key. Replace damaged components. Tighten to proper torque.

Replace crankshaft.

Replace balance gears.

Reform guide to obtain clearance.

Check and tighten mounting bolts.



I. BREATHER PASSING OIL *(PRESSURE IN CRANKCASE - HIGH OIL CONSUMPTION)

CAUSE

- 1. Engine speed too fast.
- Loose oil fill cap. Gasket or o-ring damaged or missing.
- 3. Oil level too high.
- 4. Breather assembly damaged.
- 5. Breather assembly dirty.
- 6. Drain hole in breather assembly clogged.
- Breather assembly installed upside down/incorrectly.
- 8. Breather assembly loose or gaskets leaking.
- Damaged or worn oil seals on ends of crankshaft. (Worn front main bearings on Onan.)
- 10. Piston ring end gaps aligned.
- 11. Rings not seated properly or bore scratched or worn resulting in excessive blowby.
- 12. Restricted air cleaner element. For engines with breather venting inside air cleaner.
- 13. For Onan Models BF, B43 and B48 engines only:
 - a. Oil pressure relief valve plunger missing.
 - b. Plug for cross drilling missing.
 - c. Plug in oil pump missing.
- 14. Oil pan or other gasket leaking.
- 15. On Kohler equipped tractors hole from crankcase to valve chamber closed. (Crankcase pressure can cause dipstick to pop out. Oil will leak from governor shaft but not breather.)
- 16. Worn valve guides.
- 17. Only one cylinder firing on twin cylinder engines.

REMEDY

Use tachometer to adjust correct RPM. High idle is 3600 RPM.

Install new gasket or o-ring and tighten cap securely.

Check oil level - Turn dipstick cap into receptacle for accurate level reading. DO NOT fill above full mark.

Check breather assembly and replace damaged parts.

Clean breather assembly thoroughly in solvent.

Clean hole with wire to allow oil to return to crankcase.

Check service manual for proper assembly.

install new gaskets and tighten to the correct torque.

Replace seals.

Stagger end gaps 90° apart.

Check for worn or out of round cylinder. Hone or rebore as required. Replace rings. Break in new rings with engine working under a varying load.

Clean or replace the air cleaner element.

See Onan Engine Service Maunal:

Install oil pressure relief valve plunger.

Install plug for cross drilling.

Install plug in oil pump.

Replace gaskets as required.

Clear hole of casting slag.

Replace valve guides.

Repair as required.



J. ENGINE KNOCKS

CAUSE

- 1. Improper spark plug gap.
- 2. Improper ignition timing.
- Engine or engine mounting bolts loose and striking tractor frame or attachment drive clutch rod retainer.
- 4. Carbon in combustion chamber.
- 5. Worn cylinder bore or piston.
- 6. Loose or worn crankshaft and/or connecting rod. Loose flywheel.
- 7. Crankshaft or camshaft end play too large.

REMEDY

Set the spark plug to the correct gap.

Time ignition.

Tighten mounting bolts. Replace engine mounts if worn or damaged.

Remove cylinder head and clean carbon from head and piston.

Rebore or replace block.

Repair or replace crankshaft and replace connecting rod. Check flywheel key and keyway; replace parts if necessary. Tighten flywheel nut to proper torque.

Shim crankshaft and/or camshaft to specification.

K. ENGINE OVERSPEEDS

CAUSE

- 1. Throttle high idle stop loose or misadjusted.
- Governor arm (or other linkage) loose or disconnected.
- 3. Governor arm misadjusted.
- 4. Internal governor parts loose or broken.

REMEDY

Adjust and tighten high idle stop.

Connect and tighten governor arm or linkage.

Adjust governor.

Disassemble engine and repair as required.

