GENERAL

1965 john deere 110 garden tractor

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Discovering the Classic 1965 John /Deere /110 Garden Tractor

When you think of a reliable workhorse that can tackle a backyard lawn, a small garden plot, or a modest farm field, the image of a John Deere tractor often comes to mind. Among the many models that have graced the American countryside, the 1965 John Deere 110 stands out for its blend of rugged simplicity, dependable power, and timeless design. This article takes you on a journey through the history, specifications, and practical aspects of owning and restoring this iconic garden tractor. Whether you're a seasoned restoration enthusiast, a casual hobbyist, or simply curious about a piece of agricultural heritage, read on to uncover everything you need to know about the 1965 John /Deere /110.

Historical Context: The Rise of the John /Deere /110

In the early 1960s, John Deere was expanding its line of compact tractors to meet the needs of smaller farms, landscaping businesses, and even suburban homeowners. The 110 was introduced as a lightweight, versatile machine that could perform a variety of tasks—plowing, mowing, hauling, and more—without the bulk of a full-size tractor. By 1965, the 110 had become a staple in many rural households, thanks to its straightforward engineering and the brand's reputation for durability.

The 1965 model year brought subtle refinements to the 110's design: a slightly larger engine, improved hydraulic system, and more ergonomic operator controls. Yet the core philosophy remained unchanged—provide a dependable, easy-to-maintain machine that could serve a wide range of functions. This balance of simplicity and capability is why the 1965 John /Deere /110 remains popular among collectors and practical users alike.

Technical Specifications at a Glance

Below is a quick reference for the key specs that define the 1965 John Deere 110. These numbers highlight the machine's suitability for light-duty work and its classic charm.

- Engine: 1.5 liter, 4 stroke, single-cylinder gasoline engine
- Power Output: Approximately 8 /hp at the drawbar
- Weight: Roughly 1,200 /lb (including operator)
- Dimensions: 90 /in. (wheelbase) × 64 /in. (track width)
- Transmission: 4 speed manual with reverse
- PTO: 540 /rpm hydraulic PTO (Power Take Off)
- Fuel Capacity: 5 /gal (approx.)
- Operating Speed: 4–6 /mph (drawbar)
- Front Loader: 2 /ft. bucket (standard) with hydraulic lift

Design and Features That Make It Stand Out

The 1965 John Deere 110 is a testament to functional design. Its components were engineered to be robust, yet straightforward enough for routine maintenance without specialized tools.

Engine and Powertrain

The single cylinder gasoline engine is the heart of the tractor. It delivers enough power for most garden and small field tasks, while the manual gearbox allows the operator to fine tune speed and torque. The 4 speed transmission is easy to shift, and the inclusion of a reverse gear adds versatility when maneuvering tight spaces.

Hydraulic System

One of the 110's key selling points is its hydraulic front loader. The 540 /rpm PTO drives the hydraulic pump, which in turn raises and lowers the bucket. This system is simple enough that even a novice can troubleshoot leaks or low pressure without professional help.

Operator Comfort and Controls

While the 110 was never designed for long term comfort, its controls are ergonomically placed. The steering wheel, clutch, and gear shifter are positioned to minimize operator fatigue. The seat, though basic, offers enough support for a few hours of work.

Durable Chassis and Body

The tractor's frame is built from heavy gauge steel, and the body panels are stamped steel as well. This construction ensures resistance to corrosion and wear, especially important for machines that might be left outdoors for extended periods.

Typical Uses and Applications

Despite its modest power, the 1965 John Deere 110 is surprisingly versatile. Here are some common tasks it can perform effectively:

1. Landscape Maintenance: mowing, edging, and light grading.
2. Small Scale Farming: planting, cultivating, and harvesting small plots.
3. Construction and Demolition: hauling debris, moving small loads, and operating a front loader.
4. Garden Projects: digging, trenching, and moving soil or compost.

Maintenance Essentials: Keeping Your 110 in Top Shape

Regular upkeep is essential for preserving the performance and longevity of the 1965 John Deere 110. Below are the key maintenance tasks you should perform on a regular basis.

Routine Checks

- Oil Level and Quality: Check the engine oil at least once a month and replace it every 200–300 /hours or when it becomes dirty.
- Coolant Level: Inspect the coolant reservoir and top off if needed; replace coolant every 12 months.
- Belts and Hoses: Inspect for cracks or wear; replace as necessary.
- Fuel System: Drain old gasoline and replace with fresh fuel; check carburetor for clogged jets.

Hydraulic System Care

- Check for Leaks: Inspect hydraulic lines and fittings for signs of oil seepage.
- Filter Replacement: Replace the hydraulic filter every 500 /hours to maintain system pressure.
- PTO Inspection: Ensure the PTO belt is in good condition and properly tensioned.

Transmission and Drivetrain

- Gear Oil: Replace the gear oil every 1,000 /hours or as recommended by the service manual.
- Clutch: Inspect the clutch for wear; replace the clutch plate if slipping occurs.

- Wheel Bearings: Check for smooth rotation; replace bearings if you feel noise or resistance.

General Maintenance Tips

- Always store the tractor in a dry, covered area to prevent rust.
- Clean the exterior and interior after each use to remove dirt and debris.
- Use a rust inhibitor on exposed metal parts during the off season.
- Keep a maintenance log to track service dates and parts replacements.

Common Problems and How to Fix Them

Like any vintage machine, the 1965 John Deere 110 can develop specific issues over time. Knowing what to watch for can help you address problems before they become costly.

Engine Overheating

Overheating often results from a clogged radiator, low coolant, or a faulty thermostat. Check the coolant level first, then inspect the radiator for debris. If the thermostat is stuck open, replace it with a new one.

Hydraulic Leaks

Leaking hydraulic fluid is usually due to worn seals or cracked hoses. Inspect the hydraulic lines for signs of oil. Replace any damaged hoses and reseal fittings with fresh gasket material.

Electrical Issues

Older tractors may suffer from corroded battery terminals or faulty wiring. Clean battery terminals with a wire brush, and replace any frayed or broken wires. If the starter motor isn't engaging, check the starter relay and associated fuses.

Transmission Slippage

Slipping gears can be caused by worn clutch plates or low gear oil. Replace the clutch plate if you notice slipping or a harsh engagement. Also, ensure the gear oil is at the correct level and in good condition.

Restoration and Parts Sourcing

Restoring a 1965 John Deere 110 can be a rewarding project. Below are steps and tips to guide you through the process, along with resources for sourcing genuine and aftermarket parts.

Assessment and Planning

1. Initial Inspection: Evaluate the overall condition—check for rust, structural damage, and mechanical wear.
2. Scope of Work: Decide whether you want a full restoration (return to factory condition) or a functional rebuild.
3. Budgeting: Estimate costs for parts, labor, and tools.

Key Restoration Areas

- Engine: Clean or replace the cylinder head, pistons, and valve components.
- Hydraulic System: Replace seals, hoses, and the hydraulic pump if necessary.
- Electrical System: Upgrade the battery, wiring harness, and starter to modern equivalents while retaining the original appearance.
- Chassis: Treat rusted areas with rust converter and repaint with a durable primer and paint.
- Front Loader: Inspect the bucket, lift arms, and hydraulic cylinders for wear.

Finding Parts

Parts for the 1965 John /Deere /110 can be found through several channels:

- Official John /Deere Dealerships: Some dealers still carry or can source vintage parts.
- Online Marketplaces: eBay, Etsy, and specialized tractor parts retailers often list original or compatible parts.
- Tractor Clubs and Forums: Communities such as the John /Deere 110 Club and Vintage Tractor Forum can provide leads on parts and restoration tips.
- Local Junkyards: You can salvage components from other vintage tractors.

Restoration Tips

- Always verify part numbers before purchasing.
- Use original or OEM parts whenever possible to preserve authenticity.
- Consider upgrading certain components (e.g., electric starters) for improved reliability.
- Document every step of the restoration process for future reference.

Buying a 1965 John /Deere /110: What to Look For

If you're in the market for a vintage garden tractor, the 1965 John Deere 110 is a solid choice. Here's a checklist to help you make an informed purchase.

Condition Assessment

- Structural Integrity: Inspect the frame for cracks or rust.
- Engine Health: Check for oil leaks, unusual noises, and proper compression.
- Hydraulic Functionality: Ensure the loader operates smoothly and the hydraulic system is leak free.
- Transmission: Verify smooth gear shifts and no clutch slippage.

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