

John Deere Model 70

The John Deere 70 was a next generation garden tractor based off the original John Deere Model 60 which was the first lawn tractor introduced by Deere and Company in March of 1966. Until 1966, the John Deere 110 lawn and garden tractor was the only unit available from Deere. Sparked by the desire to market to consumers in the urban areas who had less need for the large John Deere 110, Deere decided there was enough financial opportunity to enter into the lawn tractor business.

The 1966 John Deere Model 60 came standard with the following features:

- * Six horsepower, air cooled, Tecumseh model VH60 cast iron engine
- * Three speed, Peerless Transmission with high and low range
- * Electric and recoil start
- * 1-1/4 gallon fuel tank
- * Fiberglass hood just like the model 110.
- * High back steel seat with a slide over seat cushion
- * Thirty four inch rotary mower deck

Featuring New and Used John Deere Garden Tractor Parts

The John Deere 60 also was designed for safety. The PTO clutch had to be disengaged and the clutch brake had to be completely depressed before the engine could be started. Also, the brakes were designed to work on both of the rear wheels. The seat could be adjusted to accommodate a taller or shorter person. The manual lift lever worked just like the John Deere 110 s from the left side. The rubber manual lift lever grip was also the same as the John Deere 110. The steering assembly was a Peerless automotive design, which allowed for smooth handling of the machine. To change the transmission from high to low range the operator simply removed the thumbscrews from each side of the fender deck and then raised the fender deck out of the way. Once the fender deck was out of the way the operator simply moved the drive belt to the other pulley. This high and low range design was eventually phased out.

The John Deere 60 weighed 461 pounds and had a suggested retail price of \$718. This price included the 34-inch rotary mower deck. The 60 was designed for lawn work and not for heavy workouts like the lawn and garden tractors. There were several options, however, that were available for the 60. These options were as follows:

- o Forty two inch snow blade
- o Thirty two inch snow thrower
- o Model 80 dump cart
- o Pull behind sprayer
- o Pull behind lawn sweeper
- o Rear wheel weights
- o Tire chains

- o Hub Caps
- o Hinson winter enclosure

There was approximately 23,500 John Deere 60's produced from 1966 through 1969. The units produced throughout each year were as follows:

Year	Serial Number	Quantity Produced
1966	1,001 - 8,000	7,000
1967	8,001 - 15,000	7,000
1968	15,001 - 20,000	5,000
1969	20,001 - 25,000	5,000

In 1969 John Deere discontinued production of the model 60 and replaced it with the John Deere model 70 for the 1970 mowing season. The John Deere 70 was very similar in design to the model 60. It still had the same basic frame. The transmission did not have a high and low range. The John Deere 70 was now equipped with a more powerful seven horsepower model VH70 cast iron Tecumseh engine. The steering wheel went through two major changes during the production of the John Deere 70. It first came out with a high angled nickel-plated spoke steering wheel with a molded rubber grip. Later on in the production, a molded plastic steering wheel was introduced. Even the spokes of the steering wheel had a molded plastic covering. The steering assembly was still a Peerless automotive type design. The seat back was lowered by a couple inches on the 70 compared to the 60. The first models had a slide over cushion, which was eventually replaced with a molded seat cushion.

The suggested retail price for the John Deere model 70 was \$788. This price included the 34-inch mower deck. The options available for the 60 were also available for the model 70. Some of the items such as the snow thrower were slightly redesigned. There were approximately 23,438 model 70s produced from 1970 through 1974. The production information for the model 70 is as follows:

Year	Serial Number	Quantity Produced
1970	25,001 - 32,100	7,099
1971	35,001 - 40,603	5,602
1972	45,001 - 48,574	3,573
1973	50,001 - 54,874	4,873
1974	56,001 - 58,292	2,291

In 1974 John Deere halted production of the model 70 and introduced the model 100. For lawn and garden tractor collectors, the model 60 and 70 lawn tractors are truly unique and quite rare and would make a great addition to anyone's collection.

Summary by Brandon Pfeiffer, Photos from John Deere advertising literature and TractorData.com. Article shared by WeekendFreedomMachines.com