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## MTD T245

# MTD T245 Front Tine Tiller User Manual

Model: T245

## INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your MTD T245 Front Tine Tiller. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the machine to ensure proper use and to prevent injury or damage.

The MTD T245 is a medium-sized 61 cm (24-inch) front-tine tiller powered by a 173cc Thorx 5.5 HP OHV gasoline engine with a worm gear drive. It is designed for cultivating small to medium-sized garden plots, flower beds, and vegetable gardens. Key features include a single transport wheel and foldable handles for convenient storage and transport.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when operating the tiller. Failure to follow safety instructions can result in serious injury or property damage.

- Read and understand all instructions in this manual before operating the tiller.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including eye protection, hearing protection, sturdy footwear, and gloves.
- Ensure the work area is clear of debris, rocks, and other obstacles.
- Keep bystanders, especially children and pets, at a safe distance (at least 15 meters / 50 feet) from the operating area.
- Never operate the tiller under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication that may impair your judgment or coordination.
- Turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing any maintenance, adjustments, or clearing clogs.
- Handle fuel with extreme care. Store fuel in approved containers in a well-ventilated area, away from ignition sources.

## SETUP

## 1. Unpacking and Assembly

Carefully remove all components from the packaging. The tiller may require some assembly, primarily attaching the handles and the transport wheel.

1. **Handle Assembly:** Attach the upper and lower handle sections using the provided hardware. Ensure all bolts are securely tightened. The handle is height-adjustable for user comfort.
2. **Transport Wheel:** The single transport wheel is located at the front. Attach it securely as per the instructions in the separate assembly guide (if provided). This wheel is crucial for moving the tiller when not in operation.



Figure 1: Fully assembled MTD T245 Front Tine Tiller. Note the red frame, black engine, and front-mounted tines.

## 2. Adding Fuel and Oil

Before first use, ensure the engine has the correct type and amount of oil and fuel.

1. **Engine Oil:** Refer to the engine manual for the recommended oil type (typically SAE 30 or 10W-30) and fill capacity. Fill the crankcase to the 'FULL' mark on the dipstick. Do not overfill.

2. **Fuel:** Use fresh, unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87 or higher. The fuel tank capacity is approximately 1.41 liters (0.37 US gallons). Do not use E85 or other high-ethanol fuels. Fill the tank in a well-ventilated area, away from open flames.

## OPERATING

### 1. Pre-Operation Checklist

- Check engine oil level.
- Check fuel level.
- Inspect tines for damage or debris.
- Ensure all fasteners are tight.
- Verify the transport wheel is in the correct position for tilling (raised) or transport (lowered).

### 2. Starting the Engine

1. Move the throttle lever to the 'FAST' position.
2. If the engine is cold, move the choke lever to the 'CHOKE' position.
3. Pull the starter rope firmly and smoothly until the engine starts.
4. Once the engine starts, gradually move the choke lever to the 'RUN' position.

### 3. Tilling Operation

The MTD T245 features a forward rotation direction for its tines.

1. With the engine running, engage the tines by squeezing the bail lever on the handle.
2. Allow the tines to dig into the soil. Guide the tiller forward at a slow, steady pace.
3. For deeper cultivation, make multiple passes over the same area, gradually increasing the depth with each pass.
4. The transport wheel can be adjusted to control tilling depth. Lowering the wheel slightly will reduce the tilling depth, while raising it will allow for deeper tilling.

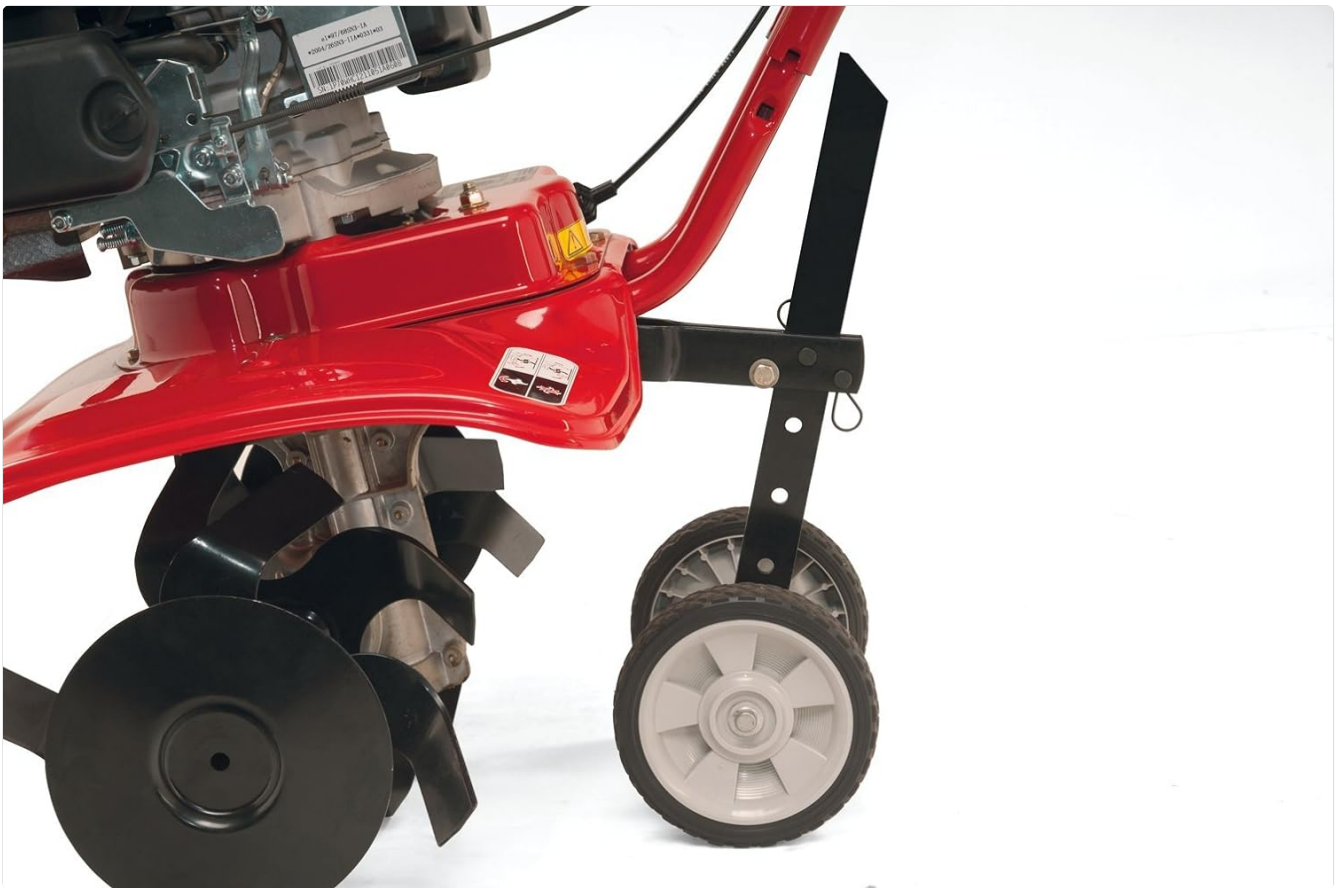


Figure 2: Close-up view of the front tines and the adjustable transport wheel. The tines are designed for efficient soil cultivation.

#### 4. Stopping the Engine

1. Release the bail lever to disengage the tines.
2. Move the throttle lever to the 'STOP' position.
3. Allow the engine to cool before storing.

## MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your tiller.

### 1. Engine Maintenance

- **Oil Change:** Change the engine oil after the first 5 hours of operation, then every 25 hours or annually, whichever comes first.
- **Air Filter:** Clean or replace the air filter regularly, especially when operating in dusty conditions. A dirty air filter can reduce engine performance.
- **Spark Plug:** Inspect the spark plug annually. Clean or replace if necessary.



*Figure 3: The MTD Thorx OHV engine powers the T245 tiller, known for its reliability.*

## **2. Tine Inspection and Cleaning**

- After each use, clear any accumulated soil, weeds, or debris from the tines.
- Inspect tines for wear, bending, or damage. Replace worn or damaged tines promptly.

## **3. Storage**

- For long-term storage, drain the fuel tank or add a fuel stabilizer.
- Clean the entire tiller thoroughly.
- Store in a dry, protected area. The foldable handles allow for more compact storage.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your MTD T245 tiller.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine won't start	No fuel; Stale fuel; Spark plug issue; Choke not set correctly	Add fresh fuel; Replace fuel; Clean/replace spark plug; Adjust choke
Engine runs rough	Dirty air filter; Stale fuel; Clogged fuel line	Clean/replace air filter; Replace fuel; Clean fuel line
Tiller not cultivating effectively	Worn tines; Tines clogged with debris; Incorrect depth setting	Inspect/replace tines; Clear debris; Adjust transport wheel for desired depth
Excessive vibration	Loose fasteners; Bent tines; Debris wrapped around shaft	Tighten all fasteners; Inspect/replace tines; Clear debris

## SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Model Number	T245
Manufacturer	MTD Lawnflite
Engine	MTD OHV Thorx, 173 cm <sup>3</sup> (5.5 HP)
Rated Power	3.3 kW / 3600 rpm
Power Source	Gas Powered
Tilling Width	61 cm (24 inches)
Number of Tines	4
Tine System	Front Tine
Tine Diameter	30 cm
Gearbox	Worm Drive
Rotation Direction	Forward
Fuel Capacity	1.41 L
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	76 x 65 x 66 cm
Product Weight	42 kg
Material	Alloy Steel (Powder-coated steel construction)
Transport Wheel	18 cm, Front-mounted, Foldable
Handle Type	Adjustable, Foldable

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Lawnflite provides a one-year warranty for this product, covering defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical assistance, spare parts, or warranty service, please contact your authorized MTD Lawnflite dealer or customer support. Always provide the model number (T245) and serial number (if applicable) when seeking support.