

SNAPPER™

THATCHERIZER®
Assembly • Operation • Maintenance
Instructions

KIT # 63120
U.S. PATENT NO. 4,317,327

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of the Snapper Thatcherizer. It will effectively dislodge excessive thatch from your lawn where it can be vacuumed up into the grass catcher on mowers so equipped. Thatch is a layer of stems, clippings, runners, roots and leaves that have not decayed. It builds up between the ground surface and the green part of the grass. Excessive thatch prevents the proper amount of air, water, and fertilizer from reaching the root structure. In areas where thatch is thick, it can kill the grass and provide a host for insects and turf disease.

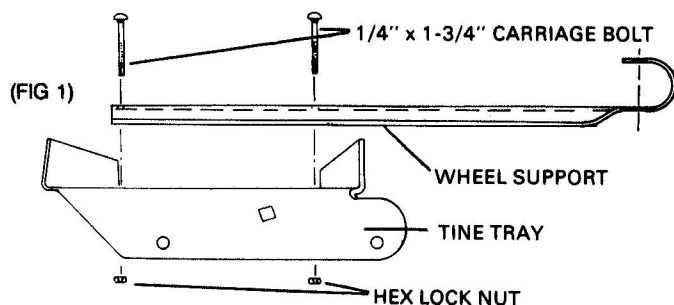
In addition to de-thatching, your Thatcherizer can help you perform other lawn care duties. For example, you can use it for "scratching" the surface of the soil for over-seeding, to give the seed a better chance of germinating. Also use it to comb matted grass upright before mowing for a smoother, more even cut. Your Thatcherizer will do a good job of dislodging and raking up that thin layer of pine straw which often remains partially embedded in the soil or is entwined in the grass. Vacuum up heavy accumulations of pine straw or leaves before using your Thatcherizer.

After assembly, see the adjustment section of this manual (or the decal on the Thatcherizer) to properly adjust the tines for best results.

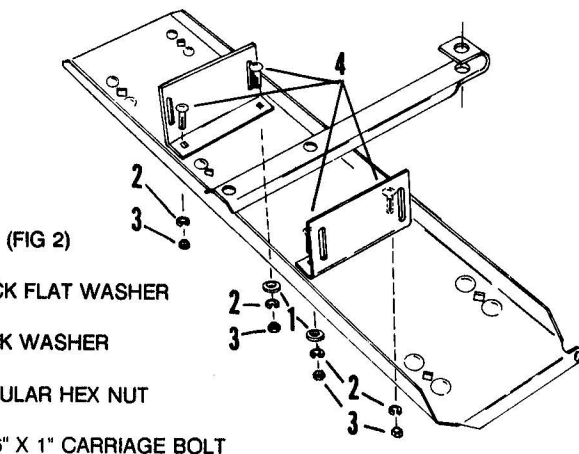
ASSEMBLY

NOTES:

- The "ears" extending from the tine tray are on the front of the Thatcherizer.
- Lock nuts must be used for certain portions of the assembly to resist loosening. They require more torque while tightening. Regular hex nuts can be threaded on with your fingers until they are seated.
- Refer to Fig. 1: Attach the Wheel Support to the Tine Tray using two 1/4" x 1-3/4" Carriage Bolts and Hex Lock Nuts. DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN.

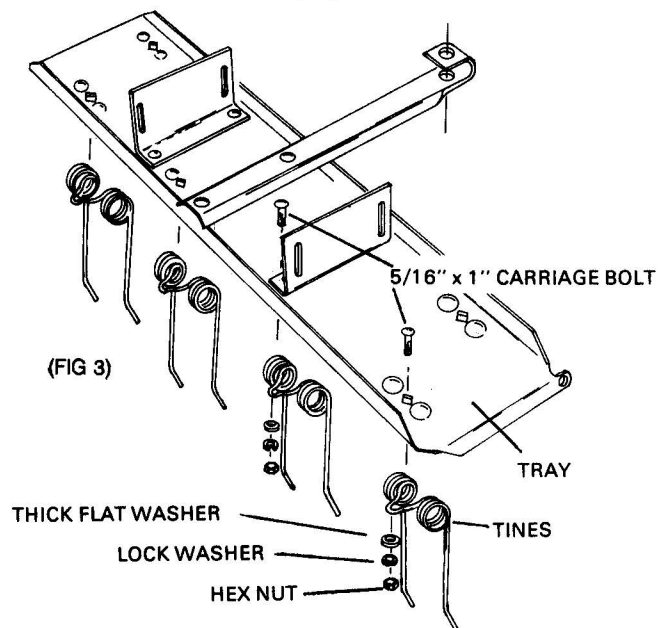


- Refer to Fig. 2. Attach the Tray Brackets to the Tine Tray as shown, with offsets outward, using four 5/16" x 1" Carriage Bolts, two thick Flat Washers, as shown, and four Lock Washers and Hex Nuts. FINGER TIGHTEN ONLY.

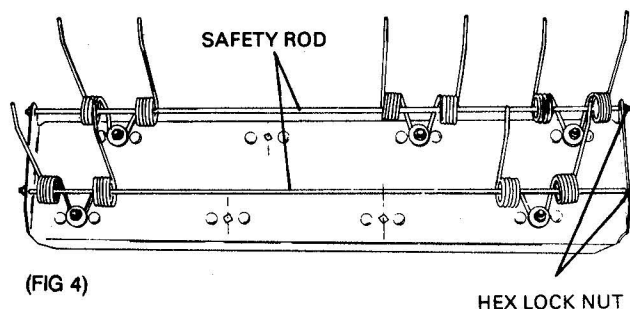


1. THICK FLAT WASHER
2. LOCK WASHER
3. REGULAR HEX NUT
4. 5/16" X 1" CARRIAGE BOLT

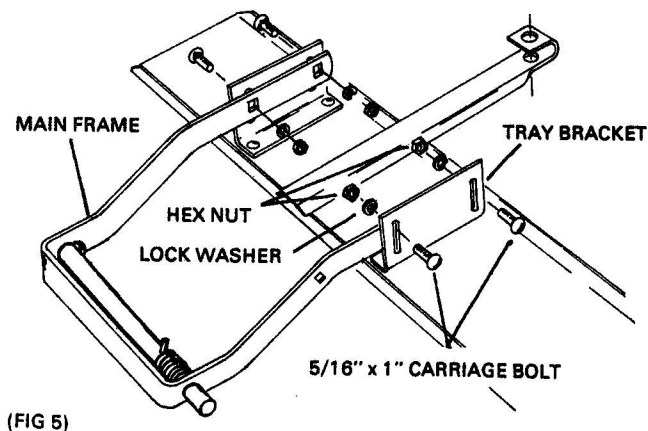
- Refer to Fig. 3: Attach Thatching Tines to the Tine Tray using the 5/16" x 1" Carriage Bolts, 5/16" Lock Washers, 1" O.D. Thick Washers and Hex Nuts. Attach two Tines to two of the Tray Bracket holes, as shown. IMPORTANT: Make Sure the loop between the Tine Coils nests inside the projections on the Tine Tray.



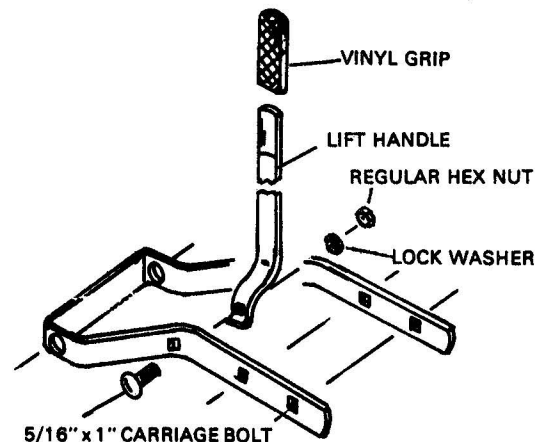
- Refer to Fig. 4: Insert the Safety Rods through the holes in the Tray and Tine coils. Tighten with 1/4" Hex Lock Nut on each end until the Rod cannot move from side to side.



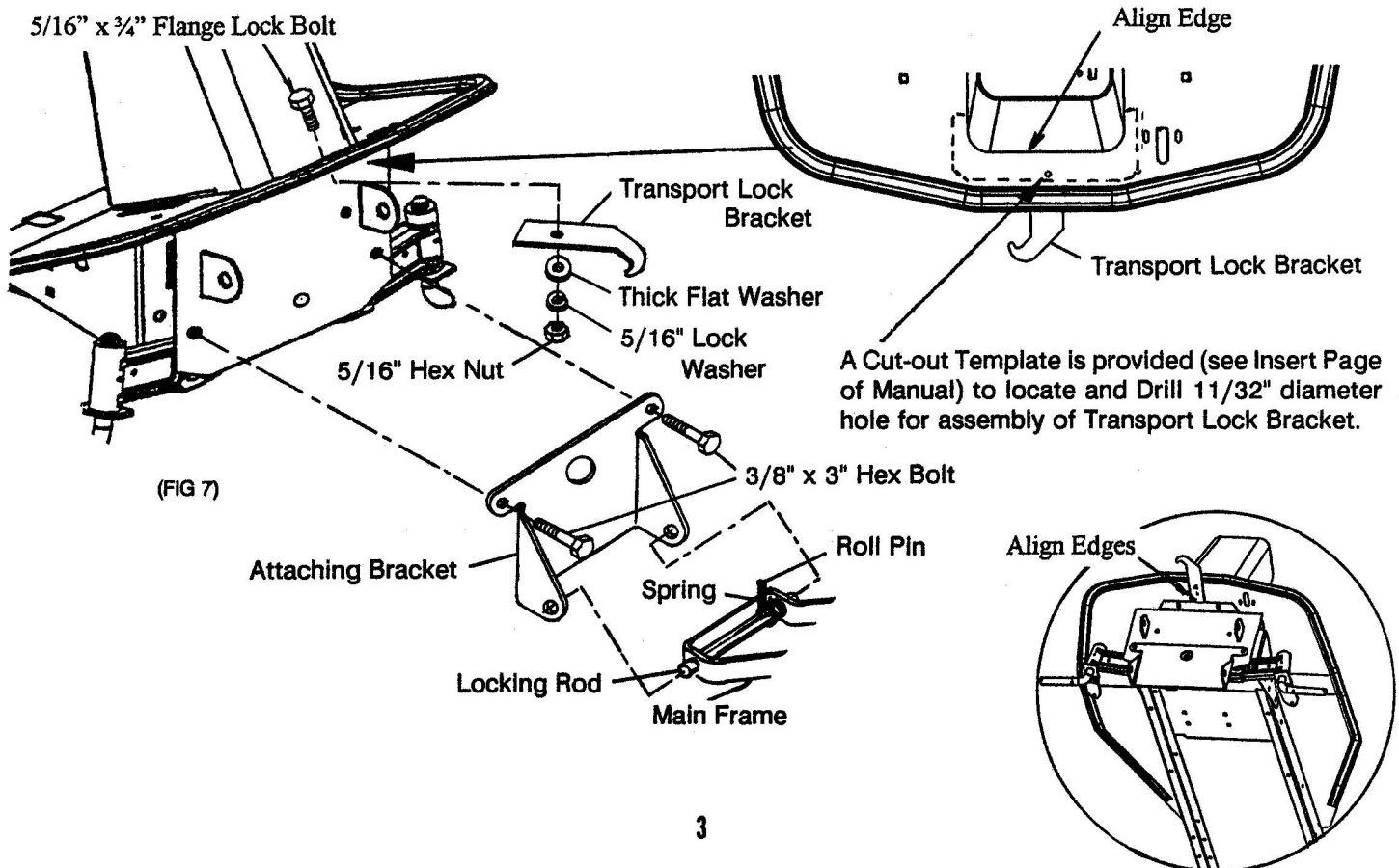
- Refer to Fig 5: Mount the Main Frame to the inside of the Tray Brackets using four 5/16" x 1" Carriage Bolts, Lock Washers, and Hex Nuts. **TIGHTEN ALL BOLTS.**



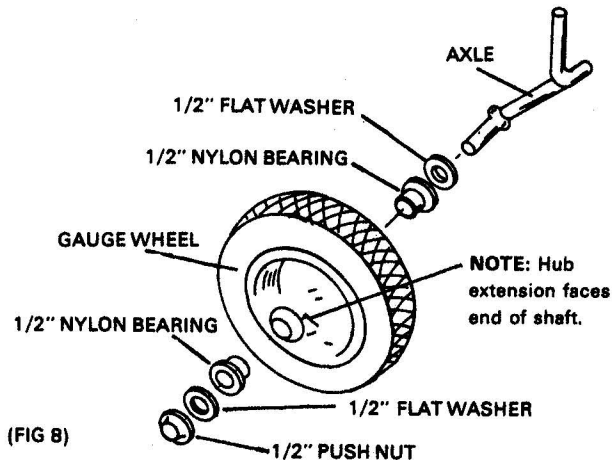
- Refer to Fig. 6: Attach Lift Handle to the right side of the Mounting Frame as shown, using a 5/16" x 1" Carriage Bolt Lock Washer and regular Hex Nut. Slip Vinyl Grip over top of Lift Handle.



- Refer to Fig. 7: **IMPORTANT-** A 11/32" diameter hole will need to be drilled through Rider Frame, near the Steering Post as shown, to mount the Transport Lock Bracket. Carefully cut out the Drill Template on Insert Page and position on top of Rider Frame, around Steering Post. Align edge of Template with edge of Steering Post. Locate center hole with Center Punch and Drill through with 11/32" Diameter Drill.
- Position Transport Lock Bracket **UNDER** Rider Frame And mate end of Lock Bracket with edge of Front Axle Attachment Bracket, as shown. Hole in Bracket should Align with previously drilled hole. Attach using 5/16" X 3/4" Flange Lock Bolt, 1" O.D. Thick Flat Washer and Hex Nut.
- Remove the two Bolts from front of Rider and assemble Attaching Bracket in these holes using two 3/8" x 3" Hex Bolts. Retain with the Washer and Lock Nut previously removed.

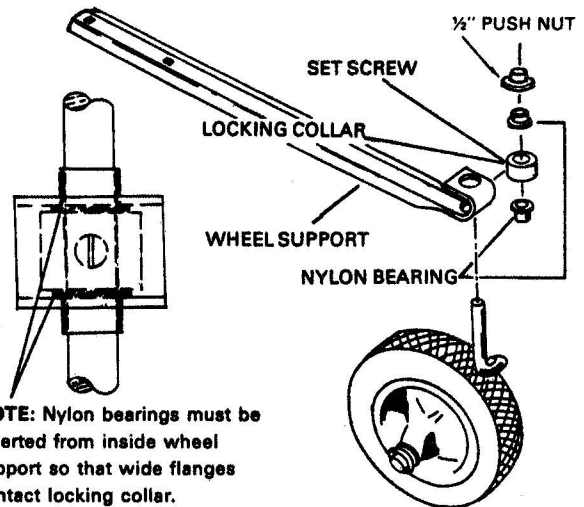


- Refer to Fig. 8: Insert a 1/2" Nylon Bearing into each side of the Gauge Wheel. Mount the Gauge Wheel on the Axle as shown using 1/2" Flat Washers on both sides of the Wheel, then drive a 1/2" Push Nut over the Axle end.



- Refer to Fig. 9: Position the Locking Collar inside Wheel Support (with the 1/2" Axle Bearings) and with adjusting Set Screw facing forward. Slide the Axle (with Gauge Wheel attached) through the Wheel Support and the Lock Collar. Drive a 1/2" Push Nut over the Axle end (on the top side), then tighten the Set Screw slightly to prevent the Axle from falling out during final adjustment.

NOTE: Nylon Bearings must be inserted from inside Wheel Support so that wide flanges contact Locking Collar.

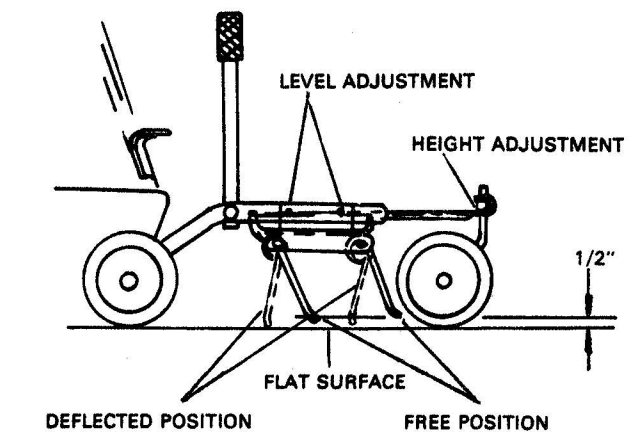


(FIG 9)

MOUNTING AND ADJUSTING

NOTE: Refer to Fig. 10: For most lawns, adjust the Thatcherizer as follows:

- Select a smooth flat surface such as a driveway, sidewalk, garage floor, etc. Attach the Thatcherizer to the Rider by placing the Main Frame between the mounting tabs on previously assembled Attaching Bracket. Insert the Rod (spring side) of Frame into mounting tab. Then slide the Rod until Spring is fully compressed and Rod is flush with other end of Frame. Insert Frame between tabs and release Rod, locking Frame to Rider.
- Align the Gauge Wheel directly under the Gauge Wheel Support.
- Loosen the four Hex Nuts on the Tray Brackets and the Gauge Wheel Set Screw. Adjust the Tine Tray to place the Tine tips approximately 1/2" above the flat surface when in the free position and to touch the flat surface when manually deflected back.
- Tighten all Hex Nuts and Gauge Wheel Set Screw.



(FIG 10)

WHEN TO USE

Every lawn is different, so there is not a rule for when to use the Thatcherizer. Some lawns are very dense and the Thatcherizer should be used about every third or fourth cutting. Lawns that are less dense would require less de-thatching. In general, you want to leave a very small amount of thatch (about 1/8" thick) in your lawn. This is enough to shade the grass roots from direct sunlight, yet allow plenty of air, water, and fertilizer to get to the roots for nourishment.

For best results, vary your mowing and de-thatching pattern from one cutting to the next.

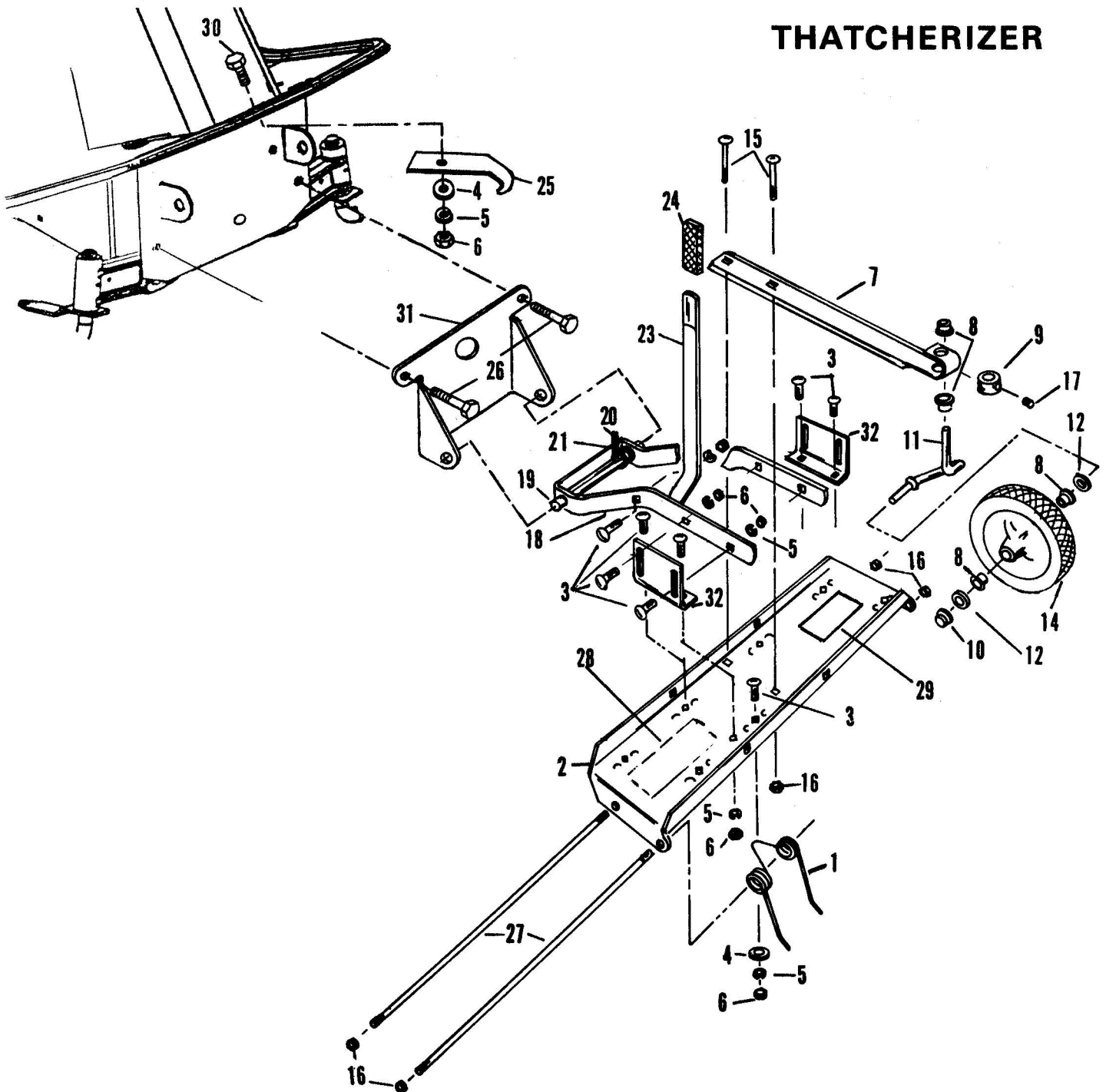
Tine Action - Grass should be less than 3" tall for proper Tine action. When in use, all the Tines on the Thatcherizer should deflect back (Independently) and "flip" the thatch forward. If the Tines seem to drag without flipping forward, the Tine Tray is too low and should be raised. If all the Tines stay in the free position, the Tine Tray should be lowered. Make adjustments as necessary up or down by no more than 1/4" each time until proper results are achieved.

MAINTENANCE

The Thatcherizer is maintenance free. However, as with any steel product, it can rust. For rust on the Tines, apply a light coat of oil. For rust on the Tray or Mounting Brackets, just sand lightly and coat with enamel. Always store the Thatcherizer in a dry area.

NOTES

THATCHERIZER



REF. NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	1-8491	Tine	8
2	1-9947	Tine Tray	1
3	90383	Carriage Bolt, 5/16" x 1"	15
4	14098	1" O.D. Thick Flat Washer	9
5	90187	Lock Washer, 5/16"	16
6	90196	Hex Nut, 5/16"	16
7	18700	Wheel Support	1
8	14342	Nylon Bearing, 1/2"	4
9	14100	Locking Collar	1
10	14101	Push Nut, 1/2"	2
11	18493	Axle	1
12	90250	Flat Washer, 1/2"	2
14	18189	Gauge Wheel	1
15	90015	Carriage Bolt, 1/4" x 1-3/4"	2
16	90761	Hex Lock Nut, 1/4"	6

REF. NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
17	14103	Set Screw	1
18	72805	Main Frame	1
19	72803	Locking Rod	1
20	14106	Roll Pin	1
21	72804	Spring	1
23	18494	Lift Handle	1
24	14109	Vinyl Grip	1
25	72744	Transport Lock Bracket	1
26	90590	Hex Bolt, 3/8" x 3"	2
27	14110	Safety Rod	2
28	14062	Thatcherizer Decal	1
29	14119	Decal (Instructions)	1
30	90595	Flange Lock Bolt, 5/16" x 3/4"	1
31	72745	Attaching Bracket	1
32	1-4778	Tray Bracket	2

