

shaft arm and the transaxle torque bracket.

12. LIFT SHAFT BUSHINGS

12.1. The most common item on the lift shaft assembly to require service is likely to be the bushings that support the shaft. These bushings are visible beneath the fender. See Figure 12.1.

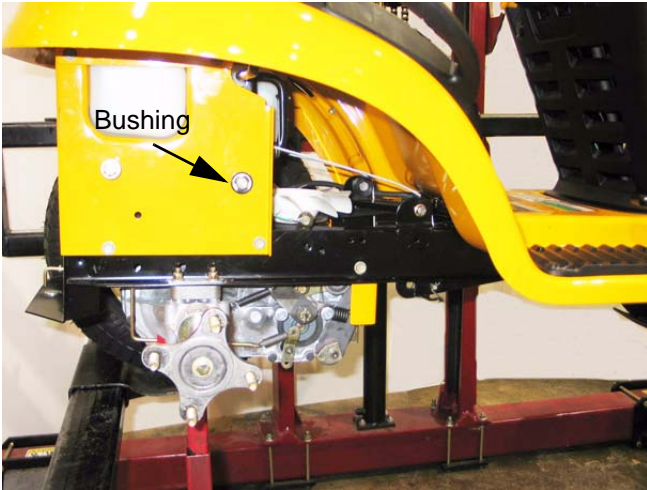


Figure 12.1

12.2. When performing normal maintenance that requires deck removal, inspect the lift shaft bushings while the weight of the deck is removed from them.

- These bushings are normal wear items.
- Grasp the lift shaft and apply up and down force.
- Watch for shaft motion within the bushings.
- Larger decks, such as the 50" and 54" (P and K) decks will place a greater load on the bushings.
- Worn bushings may cause deck leveling issues.

12.3. To replace the bushings, the weight of the deck should be removed from the deck lift cable. Remove the cutting deck before attempting to remove the bushings.

- 12.4. Disconnect the deck lift assist spring that extends from the deck lift shaft to the transaxle torque bracket using a length of starter rope or a spring tool. See Figure 12.4.



Figure 12.4

- 12.5. Remove the E-clip that holds each shouldered hex bushing into the tractor frame. Replace one bushing at a time.
- 12.6. Pry the worn bushing out of the hole.
- 12.7. Clean any dirt or corrosion from the surface of the lift shaft that contacts the bushing.
- NOTE:** Because of the dusty environment that many mowers operate in, grease applied to this bushing may accelerate wear rather than prevent it. If any lubricant is used between the shaft and the bushing, it should be a dry graphite or PTFE based lube.
- 12.8. Insert the new bushings, and secure them with the E-clips.
- 12.9. Check deck levelness, and make any necessary adjustments before returning the tractor to service.