

Prevent Your Tractor from “Running Hot”

With summer fast approaching here some tips to keep your tractor running cool and safe. Please read the owner's manual for your tractor completely. Follow all safety precautions before performing any maintenance or checks on your tractor. DO NOT check coolant at the radiator cap, you risk getting burned and injured. (Figure 1)



Figure 1

Your tractor should run cool in all weather conditions. Most temperature gauges have an indication of normal operating temperature. Figure 2 is a picture of a temperature gauge from one of our Kioti models. Normal operating temperature is indicated by the 2 dots on the gage. The needle should move to these indicators when operating normally. If the temperature is hotter, the needle moves past the safe operating range, then proceed as follows:



Figure 2

1. Most cooling systems have an overflow tank or reservoir... similar to the one shown in Figure 3. Make a visual check of the tank. If the coolant looks dirty or clear it needs to be flushed and replaced by an authorized service facility. Check the level of fluid... if it is low then fill to the proper level.



Figure 3

2. Your tractor may be equipped with a screen located in front of the radiator. This screen captures large debris that would otherwise lodge in the radiator cooling fins. Figure 4 shows a screen from one of our Kioti tractors. Make sure the screen is free of debris such as leaves, dirt, etc. If dirty simply pull the screen and clean it. Remember to put the screen back in place after cleaning.



Figure 4

3. While the screen is removed check for debris buildup in between the radiator cooling fins. If there is debris blow it out with compressed air. We do not recommend flushing with water. Water can attract dirt that will dry between the fins... making it very difficult to remove. Be careful not to damage the fins while cleaning. Be sure to put the radiator screen back in place after cleaning.

4. If your tractor has a Hydrostatic Transmission (HST) you will need to check its oil cooler as well. The oil cooler looks like a smaller version of the radiator. It may be mounted directly in front of the radiator... similar to the oil cooler shown in Figure 5. Again, just like the coolant radiator, we recommend using compressed air to remove debris. Remove the radiator screen prior to cleaning and be careful not to damage the cooler fins. Reinstall the screen when done.



Figure 5

If these steps don't cure a "Running Hot" condition, take your tractor to an authorized service facility such as J&J Machinery. Here at J&J Machinery we will properly diagnose and fix problem.