PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTION

Compact Tractor Inspection Checklist

Take this to every used-tractor walk-around. Tick boxes; circle anything questionable.

MAKE/MODEL _____ YEAR _____ HOURS _____ SERIAL # _____ ASKING $ _____

Documents & history

- ☐ Hour meter reading recorded and photographed
- ☐ Original owner's manual / service records present
- ☐ Title or bill of sale matches the serial number on the frame
- ☐ No active warranty claims, liens, or recalls (check manufacturer site)

Engine & fluids

- ☐ Cold-start: fires within 2 seconds, no excessive smoke after warm-up
- ☐ Engine oil is clean amber, not milky (coolant contamination) or black-thin
- ☐ Coolant is clean, no oil film floating on top
- ☐ Hydraulic fluid is clear red/amber, not milky or burnt
- ☐ No visible leaks at oil pan, hydraulic lines, hubs, or rear axle
- ☐ Air filter housing dry inside, filter changed within last 100 hr

Transmission & PTO

- ☐ Engages cleanly in every range (no grinding on HST / gear shifts)
- ☐ HST: no creep in neutral, full pedal travel both directions
- ☐ PTO engages smoothly under load (test with an implement if possible)
- ☐ PTO shaft splines undamaged, shield rotates freely
- ☐ 4WD engages and disengages without grinding (turn shaper test)

Loader & 3-point

- ☐ Loader lifts to full height in under 4 seconds with no load
- ☐ Loader holds position 5 minutes with no measurable drift
- ☐ Bucket dump and curl operate full range without hesitation
- ☐ 3-point lifts rated capacity smoothly, holds without drift
- ☐ Top-link and lift-arm pins not egg-shaped or grooved
- ☐ Quick-attach pins / SSQA latches function without play

Tires, hubs & steering

- ☐ Tires match in size front-to-front and rear-to-rear
- ☐ Tread depth >40% on all four; no sidewall cracks or weather checks
- ☐ No grease leaks at hub seals; wheels spin freely with no bearing noise
- ☐ Power steering: no dead spot, no whine, full lock-to-lock both directions

Electrical & operator station

- ☐ All lights, gauges, and warning lamps function on key-on
- ☐ Battery date code under 4 years; terminals clean
- ☐ Seat safety switch kills engine when operator stands
- ☐ ROPS bolts present and torqued; seatbelt undamaged

Test drive

- ☐ Full forward/reverse cycle on incline without HST hunting
- ☐ Brakes pull evenly, parking brake holds on a 15% grade
- ☐ No abnormal vibration, knock, or whine under load
- ☐ Loader + 3-point operated simultaneously without engine stall

NOTES