



# **Elec-Trak<sup>®</sup>**

## **Garden Tractor**

### **PRODUCT SERVICE BULLETIN NO. 1**

#### **WINTER USE AND CARE TIPS \***

##### **COLD WEATHER BATTERY CARE**

The efficiency of a battery is somewhat less at lower temperatures. In order to obtain optimum performance of your Elec-Trak tractor during the winter months, and to properly care for the batteries when not in use, the following recommendations should be followed.

##### **TRACTOR IN STORAGE**

1. Fully charge batteries by setting charger knob to indicator mark appropriate for age of batteries and letting charger operate until it shuts off.  
(NOTE: Always be sure that the disconnect is in (engaged) when charging.)
2. Add water to each cell of the battery to the specified level as described on page 5 of the Use & Care manual. It is important for best battery care to be sure (a) that the perforated plates which may be seen through the filling holes are covered by the water level to a depth of 1/4-3/4" before charging, and (b) that the water level is brought to the bottom level of the indicator ring after charging. In this way, overfilling is prevented but sufficient water is assured. The water filler jug (available from your Dealer) does (b) automatically and in only a few minutes time.
3. The tractor may be stored in the cold provided the batteries are charged. Discharged batteries can freeze in cold temperatures unless recharged at once. The following table illustrates the relationship between amount of charge and freezing temperature of the electrolyte.

##### **Amount of Charge**

##### **Freezing Temperature of Electrolyte**

100%	- 80F
75%	- 42F
50%	- 16F
25%	- 2F
10%	+ 7F

Self-discharge of batteries is practically non-existent below +40 degrees Fahrenheit, and they can be stored for several months without attention when not used and in any temperature less than +40 F.

4. If stored in a warm area above 40 F, the tractor should be recharged and the water level in the batteries checked and adjusted about once a month.
5. After storage of more than a few weeks, it is advisable to give batteries an overnight charge before using.

\* This has been sent to owners.

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**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**



### TRACTOR IN USE

1. Start the winter in good condition by following steps 1 and 2 as previously outlined under Tractor in Storage.
2. Whenever possible, give batteries another charge before using if cold weather service can be predicted. (The night of the snow storm if you plan to remove snow in the morning.)
3. Do not let the batteries stay discharged in cold weather. As soon as the work is completed, recharge the batteries. If idle time occurs between start and finish, plug charger into outlet and let batteries be on charge while you are not using the equipment, even if for only a few minutes. (This is helpful in any weather to give maximum range and performance.)
4. There is little danger overcharging batteries when they are cold, so extra charging in the winter is advisable when use is expected within the next 24 to 36 hours.

### USE OF CHAINS

Chains on the rear tires will be found helpful on loose or soft surfaces, and particularly when using the snowthrower which, when lifted, counterbalances some of the weight off the rear wheels. When chains are used, locate the rear wheels on the hubs so that they are at the widest spacing. (The wheel rims can be bolted to the hubs with most of the width of the tire to the inside, under the fender; or can be flipped over with more of the width to the outside, leaving approximately 4 inches space between the tire and the tractor frame.) This wide track also improves stability for snow removal service. If wheels are removed to obtain wide setting, assemble chains while wheel is off. If wheels are already set wide, chains may be assembled in normal manner with wheels left in place.

### RANGE SELECTION

If the range selector lever sticks, a momentary turning on and off of the drive motor (selector in "N") with the throttle will allow easy shifting to the desired range. See page 3 of your Use and Care manual for additional information on range selection.

### OUTSIDE STORAGE

Your tractor should be covered or under a roof in outside storage in snowy or rainy weather to give better protection and maintain performance and life of the equipment. A storage cover is available from your dealer which is custom tailored for your Elec-Trak tractor.