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EC64-732 Mowing Manners

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Mowing Manners

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Mowing Manners

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What piece of yard equipment helps most in keeping your property beautiful?

What piece of yard equipment causes loss of fingers and toes, and puncture injuries from flying objects?

The answer to both questions: your rotary power mower.

Here are some suggestions on mower safety which will do much to prevent accidents.

1. After buying your new mower, read the instruction manual. If you already own a mower, read the instructions each spring so you are familiar with its operation.

2. Keep your mower clean and in good running condition. Wipe excess oil from the engine. Sharpen the blade when necessary. Service mower according to instructions in operator's manual.

3. Keep your lawn clean. Children's toys, sticks, stones, wire and bones can be picked up by the mower blade and thrown with enough force to kill.



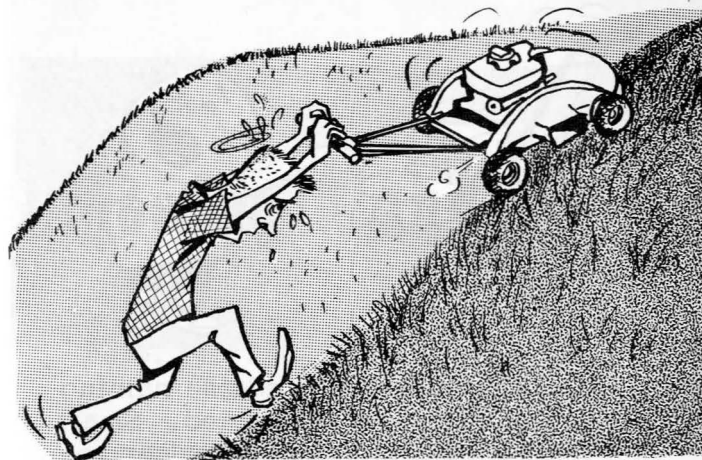
4. Keep all persons and pets away from the mowing area. Mowers can hurl objects from the discharge side at speeds up to 170 miles per hour. Painful puncture wounds, loss of eyes, toes and fingers, have been suffered by people near an operating mower.

5. Do not fill the gasoline tank while the engine is running or hot. Avoid spilling gas on the mower. Store fuel in a plainly marked red safety can. If you store gas in a glass jug you're asking for trouble.

6. When starting the engine stand away from the mower, making sure your feet cannot contact the whirling blade. Keep your clothing away from the engine. Assure adequate ventilation. Be sure all shields are in place. A grass catcher acts as a safety device and also reduces time and labor.

7. Use the slowest blade speed possible. High blade speeds are dangerous and cause excess mower wear.

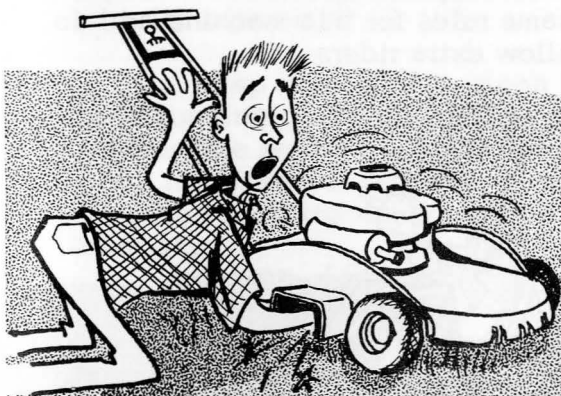
8. Do not overload the mower. If the mower travel is powered, adjust its speed to your speed. Never let the mower pull you.

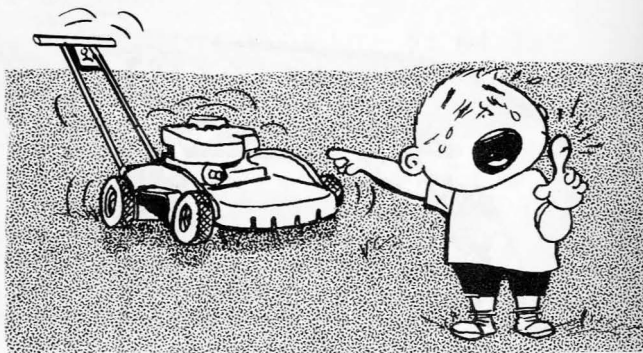


9. Mow across embankments, never up or down. This keeps the mower from sliding into the operator or the operator from slipping and falling into the mower.

10. Never mow wet grass. Not only does it cause clogging, but it can also spread lawn diseases.

11. If the mower does become clogged, shut off engine and disconnect spark plug wire before unclogging. Never reach under the deck, or guards of running mower or one that might start accidentally.





12. Never leave the engine running when the mower is unattended. Small children plus a running mower can result in an accident.

13. Do not operate electric mowers when the ground is wet. The operator will be in danger on wet ground if the cord is cut or if the mower has a short circuit.

14. Always turn off an electric mower and disconnect the cord when you leave it. Electric mower blades may sometimes coast for a short time. Be sure the blades are completely stopped before working on the machine.

15. Riding mowers present the same problems as push type mowers. Follow the same rules for this machine and do not allow extra riders.





16. What you wear is important. Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from debris the mower may throw. Shoes with cleats or spikes can give you traction on embankments. Hard-toed safety shoes protect your toes if they should contact the blade. Jeans or slacks help prevent leg injuries.

Running a power mower is not a job for children. Only a person familiar with the mower should operate it. Although mowers appear simple enough to run, they cause about 75,000 accidents each year in the United States.

Are you one of those accidents waiting to happen?