

March 8, 2022

But Be Careful. Don't Let a Perfect Lawn Come at an Exorbitant Price!

More than 230,000 people are treated for injuries involving lawn and garden tools and equipment **EVERY** year, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Practice These Lawn Tractor Safety Tips:

DRESS APPROPRIATELY - Wear:

- Long pants & close-fitting clothing.
- Sturdy footwear with good traction.
- Impact resistant safety glasses or goggles.
- Ear plugs or ear muffs. Gas powered mowers can range from 90-105 decibels (dB). You should always wear hearing protection whenever noise levels \geq 85 dB.
- Sun protection - a hat, long sleeved shirt, & sunscreen.

PREPARE THE AREA -

- Pick up items which could be thrown by the blade(s), i.e., sticks, rocks, toys, sporting equipment, etc. This is a very important step as rocks have been thrown by a lawn mower, gone through a window and struck an employee in the past - mow with the chute away from windows when possible.
- Look for immovable objects, i.e. pipes, partially buried rocks, tree roots, etc.
- Check for bystanders, children, pets, & vehicles which could be hit by items thrown by the mower. If others are using/playing in the area, consider returning to mow the area when it's not unoccupied or being used by others.

PREPARE, INSPECT, AND TEST THE MOWER -

- Make sure all protective guards are in place, especially PTO, and the collection bag is empty.
- Fill the tank with gasoline & wipe up any spills. Never fuel a hot mower as the hot muffler may ignite vapors.
- Make sure the transmission is out of gear & blade clutch is disengaged BEFORE starting the engine.
- Test drive the mower to become familiar with it BEFORE engaging the mower blade.

USE SAFE MOWING TECHNIQUES -

- Read, document annual and/or initial training, understand & follow the safety instructions on the mower and in the manual(s) before starting.
- Avoid mowing soft soil areas and/or wet grass. It can clog the discharge chute; cause the engine to falter; or the mower or operator to slip, increasing the risk of injury.
- Use extreme caution on inclines. Always drive riding mowers up & down slopes and push walk-behind mowers across slopes.
- If the mower is equipped with a seatbelt, WEAR it! If it has a ROPS system make sure it is installed and set up properly!
- Disengage the mower blade when on pavement, sidewalks, or gravel lanes.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times: look down and behind before moving backwards.
- Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Disconnect the spark plug before working on the mower to prevent accidental start up.
- Never put your hands or feet near rotating parts, under the machine, or into the discharge chute.



NEVER allow anyone to ride as a passenger on a riding lawn mower or tractor!

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