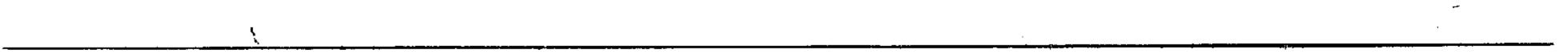




WARNING: This unit is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or state laws (if any). If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator.

In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands. A spark arrester for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer or contact the service department, P.O. Box 368022, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-9722.



SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES



THIS SYMBOL POINTS OUT IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS WHICH, IF NOT FOLLOWED, COULD ENDANGER THE PERSONAL SAFETY AND/OR PROPERTY OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS. READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO OPERATE YOUR LAWN MOWER. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY. WHEN YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL— A HEED ITS WARNING.

DANGER: Your lawn mower was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. This lawn mower is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Fallure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

A I. GENERAL OPERATION

 Read this owner's guide carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble this machine. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before operation. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.

IMPORTANT

- Your rotary mower is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times. Your unit has been designed to perform one job: to mow grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.
- 3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate a power mower. Children 14 years old and over should only operate mower under close parental supervision. Only responsible individuals who are familiar with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use your mower.
- 4. Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets. Stop engine when they are in the vicinity of your mower to help prevent blade contact or thrown object injury. Although the area of operation should be completely cleared of foreign objects, an object may have been overlooked and could be accidentally thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area. 5. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys and other foreign objects which could be picked up and thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator or any others allowed in the area. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. To help avoid a thrown objects injury, keep children, bystanders and helpers at least 75 feet from the mower while it is in operation. 6. Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation or while performing an adjustment or repair, to protect eyes from foreign objects that may be thrown from the machine in any direction. 7. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Do not wear loose fitting clothes or jewelry. They can be caught in moving parts. Never operate a unit in bare feet, sandals, or sneakers. 8. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge opening at all times as the rotating blade can cause injury. 9. Many injuries occur as a result of the mower being pulled over the foot during a fall. Do not hang on to the mower if you are falling; release the handle immediately. 10. Never pull the mower toward you while you are walking. If you must back the mower away from a wall or obstruction first look down and behind, and then follow these steps: a. Step back from the mower to fully extend your arms. b. Be sure you are well balanced with sure footing. c. Pull the mower back slowly, no more than half way toward you. d. Repeat these steps as needed. 11. Do not operate the mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. 12. Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on units so equipped before starting the engine.

- 13. The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating blade. The blade control handle must operate easily in both directions and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
- 14. Never operate the mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. Keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
- 15. Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
- 16. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- 17. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the chute. The cutting blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off. Never place any part of the body in the blade area until you are sure the blade has stopped rotating.
- Never operate mower without proper guards, grass catcher, plates or other safety protective devices in place.
 Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
 Only use accessories approved for this machine by the manufacturer. Read, understand, and follow all instructions provided with the approved accessory.
 If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. Contact your dealer for assistance.

II. SLOPE OPERATION

For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15°, as shown on the slope gauge, do not operate this unit on that area or serious injury could result.

DO:

- Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Watch for holes, ruts, hidden objects, or bumps. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury.

DO NOT:

- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments. The operator could loose footing or balance.
- Do not mow slopes greater than 15° as shown on the slope gauge.
- Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced footing could cause slipping.

🛕 III. CHILDREN

- Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the mower and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
 - Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
 - 2. Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
 - Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children.
 - 4. Never allow children under age 14 to operate the mower.

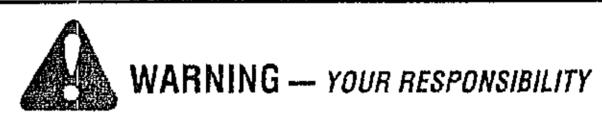
 Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision of a child or hazard.

V. SERVICE

- 1. Use extreme care in handling gasoline and other fuels. They are extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.
 - a. Use only an approved container.
 - b. Never remove gas cap or add fuel while the engine is running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
 - c. Replace gasoline cap securely and wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine as it may cause a fire or explosion.
 - d. Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
 - e. Never refuel machine indoors because flammable vapors will accumulate in the area.
 - f. Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame or spark such as a gas water heater, space heater, or furnace.
- 2. Never run an engine inside a closed area.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage. Allow mower to cool at least 5 minutes before storing.

- 4. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
- Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade for damage (e.g., bent, cracked). Replace with blade which meets original equipment specifications.
- Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove the wire from the spark plug, and thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating the mower.
- Never attempt to make a wheel or cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
- Grass catcher components are subject to wear, damage and deterioration, which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace with manufacturer's recommended parts, when necessary.
- 11. Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade(s) or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
- 12. Do not change the engine governor setting or overspeed the engine. Excessive engine speeds are dangerous.





Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

The use of any accessory on this Rotary Mower other than those manufactured by the mower manufacturer is **not** recommended.



WARNING: DO NOT operate the mower without the entire grass catcher or chute deflector in place. DO NOT operate the mower without the protective shield on the rear of the deck in place.

NOTE: Under normal usage bag material is subject to wear and should be checked periodically. Be sure any replacement bag complies with the mower manufacturer's recommendations. For replacement bags, use only factory authorized replacement bag.

