



Power Lawn Mowers



West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety

Pre-Use Activities

- Review and understand information provided in the power lawn mower operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Inspect the power lawn mower for damage or disrepair and make sure all shields and guards are securely in place.
- If a power lawn mower fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the mower from service by attaching a red tag that states "OUT OF SERVICE". Complete red tag with appropriate information.



Operating Precautions

- Wear safety glasses or goggles when using a power lawn mower. Hearing protection should also be used since engine noise from a power lawn mower is at about 90 dB.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes (i.e., no sneakers or sandals) when using a power lawn mower. Do not wear loose clothing.
- Start a power lawn mower outside. Do not operate a power lawn mower inside an enclosed space (i.e., sheds or garages) where carbon monoxide exhaust gas can accumulate.
- Inspect the area to be mowed and pick up all loose objects (i.e., sticks stones, pieces of glass/metal, etc.) that could be thrown by the power lawn mower.
- Never fuel the power lawn mower when the engine/muffler is hot. Use a rag to wipe up fuel spills.
- Shut off the power lawn mower engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing mechanical adjustments, maintenance, or repairs or clearing/unclogging the discharge chute or underside of the mowing deck.
- Exercise caution when mowing near trees or shrubs with low hanging branches.
- Shut the power lawn mower off before emptying the grass clippings catch bag.
- Never pull a power lawn mower behind you. Push the power lawn mower.
- Mow across the slope of a bank or hill.
- Shut off a power lawn mower before leaving it unattended.