

Another useful tip from Power Equipment Warehouse...

LAWN MOWING TIPS

Mowing the lawn really isn't rocket science, but here are a few useful tips:

BEFORE PERFORMING ANY SERVICE ON YOUR LAWNMOWER PLEASE DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE.

- Be sure your mower is in tip top shape before the mowing season.
- Be sure the gas is fresh.
- Is the oil fresh too? You should get into the habit of checking the oil each time you cut the grass (in a 4-cycle engine). Remember to change the oil at least once during the year and more often if we are in a drought situation. Dust and dirt are very hard on the internal parts of the engine, and even though you may not be cutting as much the engine is working harder. PLEASE BE SURE TO DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE WHEN DOING THIS.
- Be sure the underneath of the mowing deck has been cleaned and is clear of debris. (During the heavy growth season you may need to scrape the underneath of the deck after each mowing). If you use a garden hose to clean out the underneath of the deck, please be sure to start up the blade when you are done, this blows water out from under the deck where it could promote rust formation. PLEASE BE SURE TO DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE WHEN DOING THIS.
- Be sure the blade has been sharpened and is in balance. (It's a great idea to have a spare mower blade on hand, while one is being sharpened, the other one is being used)
- Quickly walk the yard and pick up any debris such as rocks, sticks, road debris, or gifts from our pets.
- If you mulch your grass clippings, try to never cut more than one third of the growth. The roots of your lawn are very superficial, they are not deep. Scalping your yard is very damaging to the root system, and can kill the grass. A short, scalped lawn is an invitation for pesky weeds.
- Mow in a different direction each time you cut the grass, this creates a nice pattern and more even cut.
- Never mow in wet conditions.
- If you are in very wet conditions and the grass is higher than normal you should raise the mowing deck and cut on the highest setting, then incrementally drop down to your normal mowing height over the next few mowings. Grass is about 75% water so you will not create thatch if you cut off a little at a time during these types of conditions.
- Please be sure children and pets are far away from the mowing area. (Please don't let your young child "go for a ride" on the mower while you are cutting the grass)
- Never push a running lawnmower onto a paved surface; the grass creates a barrier and prevents debris from flying out from under the mower.
- Wear the right clothes, shoes and eye protection. You may not think about it, but hearing protection is becoming more widely used while mowing too.
- Never empty the bag, or clean near the chute while the blade is spinning. Be sure the blade and or engine are stopped.
- Lastly, at the end of the mowing season take the mower outside, start it up and let it run out of gas. Store it with fresh oil in the engine and no gas. Scrape the mower deck clean, be sure the bag is empty and hanging to dry, and have the blade sharpened. PLEASE BE SURE TO DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE WHEN DOING THIS. ***Now you're ready for the next mowing season!***

Here are some recommended mowing heights for certain types of grass:

Buffalo Grass	2" to 4"
Centipede Grass	1 1/2" to 2 1/2"
Common Bermuda Grass	1" to 3"
Hybrid Bermuda Grass	3/4" to 2"
Kentucky Blue Grass	1 1/2" to 3"
St. Augustine Grass	2 1/2" to 4"
Tall Fescue Grass	2" to 4"
Texas Blue Grass	1 1/2" to 3"
Zoysia Japonica (Coarse blade Zoysia)	1" to 2 1/2"
Zoysia Matrella (Fine blade Zoysia)	3/4" to 2 1/2"