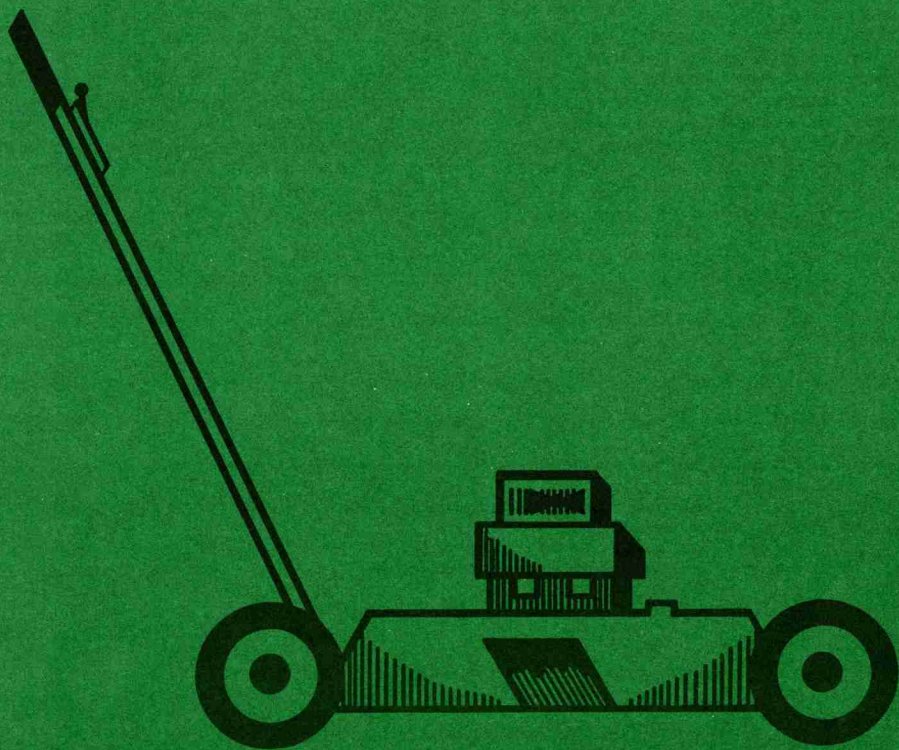


Lawn & Garden Equipment Safety ❖



Lawn & Garden Equipment Safety



In 1973 there were 37 million families using power lawn mowers in the United States. More than 5 million new mowers were sold in 1974; 1 million of these to first time owners. It is estimated that more than 100 million persons are affected by the use of power mowers.

Objective

The objective of this project is to reduce the number of injuries caused by lawn and garden equipment. This objective may be reached by:

- (1) Influencing the operator to be safety conscious — "Think Safety."
- (2) Evaluating the equipment in relation to safety features.
- (3) Observing and practicing safe work habits in servicing and operating the equipment.
- (4) Educating and making others aware of the hazards involved with the equipment.

Procedure

You will find that those people that sell and service the equipment are good resource persons. Literature, pertaining to the operation and service of each piece of equipment that you are concerned with, is most beneficial. The resource material listed at the end of the unit should be used. This study should make it possible for you to answer yes to all of the questions.

The subject matter, presented as questions, is suggestive of the scope of knowledge that should be acquired through the study of this unit. Group discussions pertaining to the questions will answer many and perhaps raise more questions.

Questions

	Yes	No
1. Do I avoid using the equipment when suffering from drowsiness due to lack of sleep or fatigue?	_____	_____
2. Do I avoid using the equipment when taking prescription drugs which cause drowsiness?	_____	_____
3. Am I free of physical handicaps which make the operation dangerous?	_____	_____
4. Have I read and do I understand the operator's (owner's) manual?	_____	_____
5. Do I know how to control the implement and stop it quickly?	_____	_____
6. Do I remove the key, or take other measures, to prevent small children from accidentally starting the equipment?	_____	_____
7. Do I instruct everyone that uses the implement in its proper use?	_____	_____
8. Do I always clean the area to be worked of objects which might be picked up and thrown?	_____	_____
9. Do I disengage all clutches and put gear shift in neutral before starting the engine?	_____	_____
10. Do I keep other people a safe distance from the implement when it is being used?	_____	_____

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-------|-------|
| 11. Do I keep pets away from the implement when it is in use? | _____ | _____ |
| 12. Do I direct the discharge material from the mower away from bystanders and buildings? | _____ | _____ |
| 13. Do I set the brakes or take other means to make the implement stationary when leaving the machine? | _____ | _____ |
| 14. Do I stop the motor when leaving the machine? | _____ | _____ |
| 15. Do I use an approved gasoline container and handle it with care? | _____ | _____ |
| 16. Do I avoid running the engine in a closed shed or garage? | _____ | _____ |
| 17. Do I stop the engine and let it cool before filling with gasoline? | _____ | _____ |
| 18. Do I avoid smoking while handling gasoline? | _____ | _____ |
| 19. Do I keep all shields and safety devices in place? | _____ | _____ |
| 20. Do I keep a safe distance from open ditches or streams? | _____ | _____ |
| 21. Do I stay alert for holes and other hazards? | _____ | _____ |
| 22. Do I stop the engine and disengage power to any attachment before making adjustments? | _____ | _____ |
| 23. Do I always remain alert and concentrate on what I am doing? | _____ | _____ |
| 24. Do I exercise extreme caution on steep slopes or rough terrain? | _____ | _____ |
| 25. Do I always get in the driver's seat (riding equipment) before starting the engine? | _____ | _____ |
| 26. Do I always stop (riding equipment) and set the brake before getting off the machine? | _____ | _____ |
| 27. Do I refuse to let passengers on riding equipment? | _____ | _____ |
| 28. Do I keep my hands and feet and the hands and feet of others away from moving parts? | _____ | _____ |
| 29. Do I dress properly (shoes included) for the job which I am to do? | _____ | _____ |
| 30. Do I start and stop slowly and cautiously when going up or down a hill? | _____ | _____ |
| 31. Do I keep the machine in good overall operating condition? | _____ | _____ |
| 32. Do I know the limitations of the machine? | _____ | _____ |
| 33. Do I stay alert to traffic when working near driveways or roads? | _____ | _____ |
| 34. Do I wear ear muffs or plugs when working with noisy machinery? | _____ | _____ |
| 35. Do I protect the eyes with face shields or goggles where there might be danger from flying objects? | _____ | _____ |
| 36. Do I refrain from using plug-in electric mowers or other electric equipment when it is raining or the grass is wet? | _____ | _____ |
| 37. Do I avoid pulling the mower toward me when cutting grass? | _____ | _____ |

38. Do I disconnect the spark plug wire before working on the equipment? _____
39. Do I always stop the engine or by other means disengage the equipment before crossing drives, walks, or roads? _____
40. Do I always operate the engine at speeds within the limit set by the manufacturer? _____
41. Do I always operate riding equipment up and down slopes? _____
42. Do I always (when using riding equipment) use extra care when pulling heavy loads or using heavy equipment? _____
43. Do I always store the equipment properly? _____
44. Do I insist that the equipment that I use carry the OPEI safety seal? _____

Suggested Activities

1. Read and study the questions presented in this unit. This should familiarize you with the scope of the study.
2. Organize and conduct group discussions on the questions.
3. Collect newspaper clippings of accidents in which lawn and garden equipment was involved.
4. Make a listing of the unsafe conditions or practices in which you have been engaged.
5. Plan and organize a safety campaign. Begin with your home and extend this to include community and civic groups.
6. Outline your immediate and long range plans to promote safety and eliminate hazards.
7. Study each implement that concerns you in relation to potential hazards.
8. Prepare short news articles for local papers.
9. Give talks to civic groups on the subject of "Lawn and Garden Equipment Safety."
10. Prepare and maintain bulletin boards and posters on the subject.
11. Demonstrate the proper and safe procedure for servicing and operating equipment.
12. Practice safety with each and every item of equipment that you operate.

13. Be safety conscious in all that you do.
14. Write a one-page story high-lighting your activities in this project.
15. Complete the *My 4-H Plan, 4HR-1-80* or *4HR-1-139*.

Suggestions

To complete this project you should:

- (1) Score yourself on the 44 questions.
- (2) Read and study the operator's manuals for the equipment that you operate. File these for future reference.
- (3) Complete Suggested Activity Number 4.
- (4) Write a one-page story on "Lawn and Garden Equipment Safety."
- (5) Complete *My 4-H Plan, 4HR-1-80* or *4HR-1-139*, and turn everything in to your 4-H leader or Extension agent by the date requested.

Resource Material

- (1) *Outdoor Power Equipment Institute*. Safety materials. 734 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20005.
- (2) *Operating and Maintenance Manuals*. Furnished with each item of equipment when purchased. When requesting manuals, give equipment name and model number. Ordinarily free, but a small charge may be made.
- (3) *Grounds Keeping Equipment, Volume I. Operating Tractors for Grounds Keeping and Ornamental Horticulture*. Safety is stressed. Over 80 pages—205 illustrations. AAVIM, Engineering Center, Athens, Georgia 30602.

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