

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

Task/Equipment Description: Turf Cutter



Potential Hazards:

- Impact with moving vehicle and projectiles
- Ergonomics, vibration and manual handling
- Noise
- Slips, trips and falls
- Fire and explosion
- Dust and petrol fumes

DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been trained in its safe use and operation.

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



High visibility clothing



Appropriate footwear



Eye protection



Gloves



Hearing Protection



Face mask (Dust)

ALWAYS

Wear correct PPE

Map out any submerged underground infrastructure (powerlines, reticulation etc)

Be alert and maintain awareness of your surroundings when operating

Take regular breaks for postural relief and safe work practices

Drive is disengaged and engine is turned off before performing any maintenance or clearing

Ensure motor is stopped and allow to cool before refuelling. Ensure fuel cap is securely fastened

Keep feet and hands well clear of the cutting blade. Wear protective footwear at all times

NEVER

Never remove guards fitted to the plant

Never refuel near sources of ignition

Never leave machine running unattended

Never operate on slippery, or unstable sloping surfaces

Never cut near fences, wires, posts, rocks to prevent kick out and damage to persons/equipment

Safe Operating Procedure:

Pre-Operation – Safety Checks:

- Inspect the machine for visible damage or leaks. Check blades for damages, cracks, and sharpness
 - Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburettor for fuel leaks. Do not operate unit if leaks are found
 - Check that all bolts and fasteners are tight.
 - Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional
 - Adjust the handle/s to a position for comfort and good balance
 - Before commencing operation mark any submerged obstacles, sprinklers etc
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Operation – Safety Procedure:

- If machine is on a trailer, leave trailer attached to the vehicle, removed tiedowns and unload on a flat and level surface.
- To start, turn on the fuel tap by moving the lever to the down position.
- Before starting ensure both the drive levers are disengaged.
- Ensure the stop switch on the engine is in the ON position.
- For cold starting close the choke lever.
- Start the engine by pulling the recoil rope with the throttle in low speed position.
- As the engine warms up return the choke lever to the open position.

Using the Turfcutter

- Set the depth adjuster knob to the desired depth (just below bed root), increase the speed, engage the cutter lever and let the cutter cut under the turf. It may be easier to dig a start hole for the cutter blade.
 - The speed should be set to a comfortable walking pace.
 - Keep hands, feet and loose clothing away from all moving parts
 - Do not overreach and ensure proper footing and balance
 - To commence operation engage the drive lever to move forward.
 - To stop the machine disengage both the cutter and the drive lever, return the throttle to the idle position, turn the engine stop switch OFF and turn off the fuel tap.
 - To load onto a trailer. Ensure trailer is attached to the vehicle and on a flat and level surface. Load machine onto trailer and tie down appropriately.
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Post-Operation – Housekeeping:

- Ensure moving parts have completely stopped before storing
- Remove any foreign material from engine, cutting tool and guards
- Ensure equipment is returned to storage area after use and once cooled
- Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition
- Use extra care when loading or unloading the machine into a trailer or truck
- Ensure machine is secured appropriately during transportation