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› Ariens 991151 Apex 60" Zero-Turn Riding Mower Instruction Manual

Ariens 991151

Ariens Apex 60" Zero-Turn Riding Mower Model 991151 Instruction Manual

Your guide to safe and efficient operation

1. INTRODUCTION

This instruction manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your Ariens Apex 60" Zero-Turn Riding Mower, Model 991151. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the machine to ensure proper setup, operation, and maintenance. Retain this manual for future reference.



Figure 1.1: Ariens Apex 60" Zero-Turn Riding Mower. This image displays the overall design of the mower, highlighting its robust frame and cutting deck.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: Failure to follow these safety instructions can result in serious injury or death.

- Always read and understand the entire operator's manual before operating the mower.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including eye protection, hearing protection, long pants, and sturdy footwear.
- Keep all bystanders, especially children and pets, at a safe distance from the operating area.
- Never operate the mower under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Inspect the area to be mowed and remove any objects that could be thrown by the blades.
- Operate the mower only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Do not operate on excessively steep slopes. Refer to the slope gauge in the full manual for safe operating angles.

- Turn off the engine, remove the key, and wait for all moving parts to stop before performing any adjustments, maintenance, or clearing clogs.

3. SETUP

3.1 Unpacking and Assembly

Your Ariens Apex mower may require some assembly upon delivery. Carefully remove all packaging materials. Refer to the separate assembly guide for detailed instructions on attaching components such as the seat, steering levers, and discharge chute. Ensure all fasteners are tightened to the specified torque.

3.2 Fuel and Oil

1. **Fuel:** Fill the fuel tank with fresh, unleaded gasoline (minimum 87 octane). Do not use E85 fuel. Refer to the engine manual for specific fuel recommendations.
2. **Engine Oil:** Check the engine oil level using the dipstick. Add recommended engine oil (typically SAE 10W-30 or 10W-40, consult engine manual) until the level is between the 'Full' and 'Add' marks. Do not overfill.

3.3 Tire Pressure

Verify that all tires are inflated to the recommended pressure. Incorrect tire pressure can affect cut quality and machine stability. Refer to the tire sidewall for maximum pressure and the full manual for recommended operating pressure.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Pre-Operation Checklist

- Check fuel and oil levels.
- Ensure tire pressures are correct.
- Inspect blades for sharpness and damage.
- Clear the mowing area of debris.
- Adjust the seat for comfortable operation.
- Ensure the parking brake is engaged.

4.2 Starting the Engine

1. Sit on the operator's seat.
2. Engage the parking brake.
3. Ensure the PTO (Power Take-Off) lever is disengaged.
4. Move the throttle lever to the 'Choke' position (for cold starts) or 'Fast' position (for warm starts).
5. Insert the ignition key and turn it to the 'Start' position. Release the key once the engine starts.
6. Once the engine is running smoothly, move the throttle to the 'Fast' position.

4.3 Engaging the Blades and Mowing

1. With the engine running at full throttle, slowly engage the PTO lever to activate the cutting blades.
2. Release the parking brake.
3. Use the steering levers to control direction and speed. Push both levers forward to move straight, pull back to

reverse, and push one forward while pulling the other back to turn.

4. Adjust the cutting height using the deck lift system. The Ariens Apex offers multiple cutting positions for optimal results.
5. Mow at a speed appropriate for the grass conditions. Avoid sudden starts, stops, or turns.

4.4 Stopping the Engine

1. Disengage the PTO lever to stop the blades.
2. Move the throttle lever to the 'Slow' or 'Idle' position.
3. Engage the parking brake.
4. Turn the ignition key to the 'Off' position and remove it.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your mower. Refer to the full service manual for detailed schedules and procedures.

5.1 Engine Maintenance

- **Oil Change:** Change engine oil and filter according to the engine manufacturer's recommendations, typically after the first 5-8 hours and then every 50-100 hours of operation. The Kawasaki engine includes a crankcase discharge extension hose for easier oil changes.
- **Air Filter:** Inspect and clean or replace the air filter regularly, especially in dusty conditions.
- **Spark Plugs:** Inspect and replace spark plugs as recommended.

5.2 Deck and Blade Maintenance

- **Blade Sharpening/Replacement:** Inspect blades for sharpness and damage before each use. Sharpen or replace blades as needed. Ensure blades are balanced after sharpening. Blade bolts may be factory over-torqued; use appropriate tools for removal.
- **Deck Cleaning:** Clean the underside of the cutting deck after each use to prevent grass buildup, which can affect cut quality and promote rust. The foot deck can be lifted without tools to access the belt pulley system for cleaning.
- **Anti-Scalping Wheels:** Ensure anti-scalping wheels are properly adjusted and free of debris.

5.3 Belt Tension and General Inspection

- **Belt Tension:** Periodically check the tension of all drive belts. The mower features an auto belt tensioner, but visual inspection for wear and proper function is recommended. Address any squeaking or rattling noises from belt tensioner anchor points promptly.
- **Fasteners:** Check all nuts, bolts, and screws for tightness. Tighten as necessary.
- **Lubrication:** Lubricate all grease fittings and pivot points as specified in the full manual.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter. For more complex problems, consult an authorized service dealer.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Engine will not start	No fuel; low oil; parking brake not engaged; PTO engaged; faulty spark plug; dead battery.	Check fuel/oil levels; engage parking brake; disengage PTO; check/replace spark plug; charge/replace battery.
Poor cut quality	Dull or damaged blades; incorrect cutting height; excessive ground speed; grass buildup under deck; incorrect tire pressure.	Sharpen/replace blades; adjust cutting height; reduce speed; clean deck; check tire pressure.
Excessive vibration or noise (rattles, squeaks, chirps)	Loose fasteners; unbalanced blades; worn belt; worn belt tensioner components; debris in deck.	Check and tighten all fasteners; inspect and balance/replace blades; inspect/replace belts or tensioner components; clean deck. Slow down on rough terrain.
One front wheel often off the ground	Operating on uneven terrain; rigid front axle design.	Reduce speed on uneven terrain. Be aware that the wide front caster spacing and rigid axle can cause this on non-golf course smooth lawns.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Model Number	991151
Brand	Ariens
Engine	Kawasaki FR730 V-Twin (24 HP)
Cutting Width	60 Inches
Maximum Adjustable Cutting Height	4.5 Inches
Number of Cutting Positions	7
Item Weight	855 Pounds
Operation Mode	Automatic
Material	Metal
Color	Black, Orange
UPC	751058043029

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

8.1 Warranty Information

This product is not returnable. Warranty service or repairs are available at an Authorized Service Dealer. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. Specific warranty terms and conditions are provided with the product documentation.

8.2 Customer Support

For technical assistance, parts inquiries, or to locate an Authorized Service Dealer, please contact Ariens Customer Support. Contact information can typically be found on the manufacturer's website or in the documentation included with your mower.