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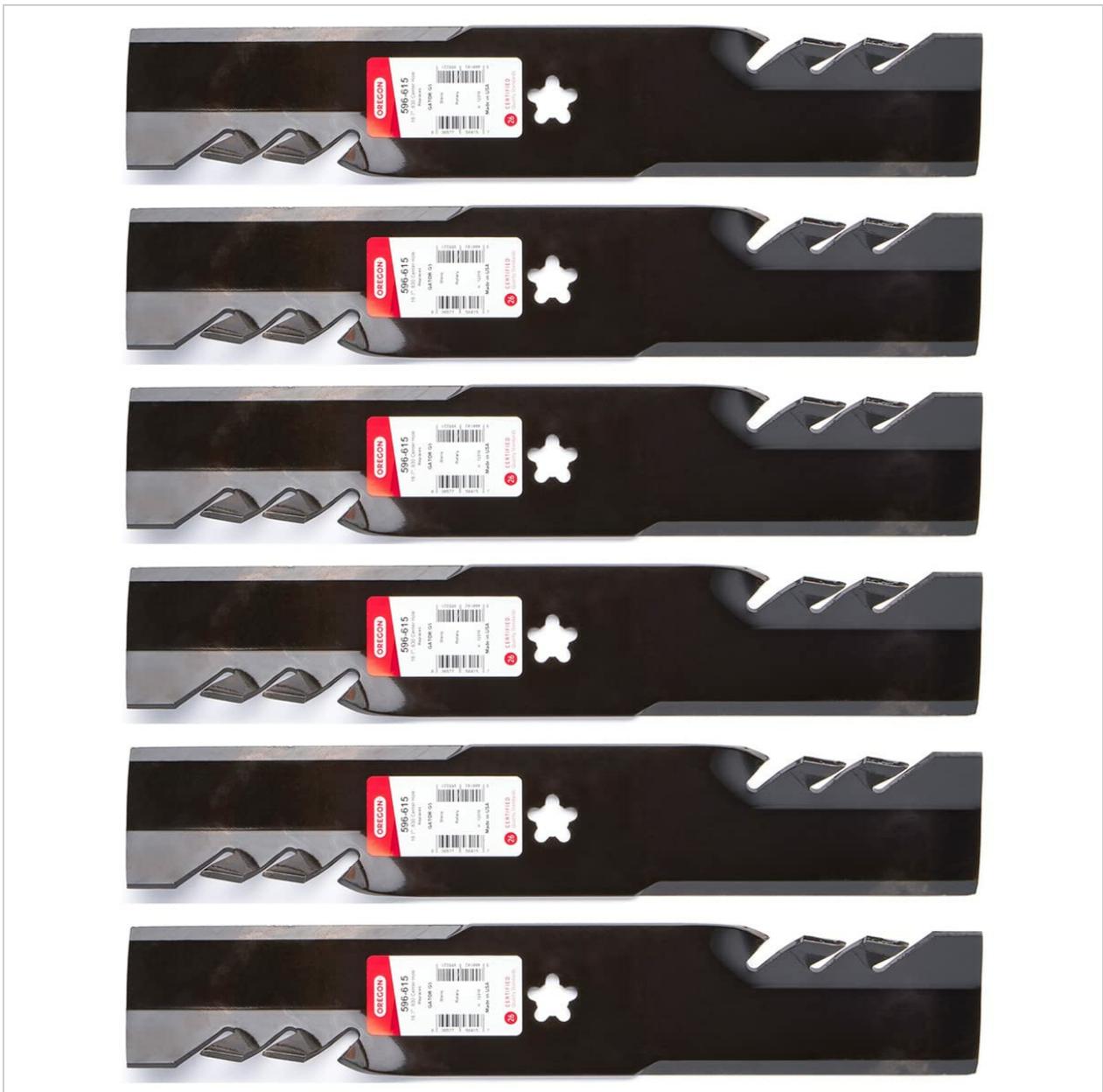
## Oregon 596-615

# Oregon 596-615 G5 Gator Mower Blade Instruction Manual

## INTRODUCTION

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This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and effective installation, operation, and maintenance of your Oregon 596-615 G5 Gator Mulcher Mower Blades. These blades are designed for specific lawn mower decks requiring AYP part numbers 173920, 180054, and 532180054, typically found on 48-inch cutting decks. Please read this manual thoroughly before attempting any installation or maintenance procedures.



*Image: A pack of Oregon 596-615 G5 Gator Mulcher Mower Blades. These blades feature a unique design with aggressive teeth along the cutting edge, optimized for superior mulching performance. The image displays the robust construction and the characteristic 5-point star center hole for mounting.*

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when working with mower blades. Failure to follow these safety guidelines can result in serious injury.

- **Disconnect Power:** Before performing any work on the mower deck, ensure the engine is off, the spark plug wire is disconnected, and the key is removed to prevent accidental starting.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Always wear heavy-duty gloves and eye protection when handling mower blades. Blades are sharp and can cause severe cuts.
- **Secure the Mower:** Ensure the mower is stable and properly supported before lifting or tilting it to access the deck.
- **Inspect Blades Regularly:** Check blades for damage, cracks, or excessive wear before each use. Replace damaged blades immediately.
- **Proper Torque:** Always tighten blade bolts to the manufacturer's specified torque settings. Refer to your mower's owner's manual for specific values.

## PACKAGE CONTENTS

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Your Oregon 596-615 G5 Gator Mower Blade package includes:

- Six (6) Oregon 596-615 G5 Gator Mulcher Mower Blades.

Note: Three blades are typically required for a 48-inch cutting deck. This package provides two full sets of blades for a 48-inch deck, or replacements for two separate 48-inch decks.

## SETUP (INSTALLATION)

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Follow these steps to safely install your new Oregon G5 Gator Mulcher Mower Blades:

1. **Prepare the Mower:** Park the mower on a flat, level surface. Turn off the engine, remove the ignition key, and disconnect the spark plug wire. Engage the parking brake.
2. **Access the Deck:** Carefully lift or tilt the mower to expose the underside of the cutting deck. Ensure it is securely supported to prevent it from falling.
3. **Remove Old Blades:** Using a wrench or socket, loosen and remove the blade mounting bolt. You may need a block of wood to hold the blade steady while loosening the bolt. Remove the old blade and any washers or spacers. Note their orientation.
4. **Clean the Spindle:** Clean any grass clippings or debris from the blade spindle and mounting area. Inspect the spindle for damage.
5. **Install New Blades:** Place the new Oregon G5 Gator Mulcher Blade onto the spindle. Ensure the blade's cutting edge is facing the correct direction (upwards towards the deck). The 5-point star center hole on the blade must align perfectly with the spindle.
6. **Secure the Blades:** Reinstall any washers or spacers, then thread the blade mounting bolt. Hand-tighten the bolt, then use a torque wrench to tighten it to the mower manufacturer's specified torque. Refer to your mower's owner's manual for the correct torque specification.
7. **Repeat for All Blades:** Repeat steps 3-6 for all three blades on your 48-inch deck.
8. **Final Check:** Once all blades are installed, ensure they are securely fastened and rotate freely without obstruction. Reconnect the spark plug wire before starting the mower.

## OPERATING

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Oregon G5 Gator Mulcher Blades are designed for efficient mulching. For optimal performance:

- **Mow Dry Grass:** Mulching works best on dry grass. Wet grass can clump and lead to an uneven cut.
- **Cut No More Than One-Third:** Avoid cutting more than one-third of the grass blade length at a time. This promotes healthier lawn growth and better mulching.
- **Maintain Engine Speed:** Operate the mower at full throttle to ensure maximum blade tip speed for effective mulching and a clean cut.
- **Overlap Passes:** Overlap each mowing pass slightly to ensure complete coverage and even distribution of mulched clippings.

## MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance of your mower blades ensures optimal cutting performance and extends their lifespan.

- **Inspect After Each Use:** After each mowing session, inspect the blades for excessive wear, nicks, bends, or cracks. Replace any damaged blades immediately.
- **Clean Blades:** Remove accumulated grass clippings and debris from the blades and the underside of the deck. This prevents rust and maintains balance.
- **Sharpening:** Blades should be sharpened regularly to maintain a clean cut. Use a blade sharpener or file to restore the cutting edge. Ensure the blade remains balanced after sharpening to prevent excessive vibration. If you are unsure, consult a professional.
- **Replacement:** Replace blades when they become excessively worn, bent, or cracked, even if they can be sharpened. Worn blades reduce cutting efficiency and can damage your mower.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your mower's cutting performance, consider the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Uneven Cut / Ragged Grass	Dull or bent blades; Incorrect blade installation; Mowing wet grass; Engine speed too low.	Sharpen or replace blades; Reinstall blades correctly; Mow dry grass; Operate at full throttle.
Excessive Vibration	Unbalanced blades (due to wear or improper sharpening); Bent blade; Loose blade bolt.	Balance or replace blades; Replace bent blade; Tighten blade bolt to specified torque.
Poor Mulching Performance	Dull blades; Mowing excessively tall or wet grass; Engine speed too low.	Sharpen or replace blades; Mow more frequently or when grass is dry; Operate at full throttle.

## SPECIFICATIONS

The Oregon 596-615 G5 Gator Mulcher Mower Blades feature the following specifications:

- **Oregon Part Number:** 596-615
- **Replaces AYP Part Numbers:** 173920, 180054, 532180054
- **Blade Length:** 16-5/8 inches (42.23 cm)
- **Center Hole Type:** 5-point Star
- **Blade Width:** 3 inches (7.62 cm)
- **Blade Thickness:** 0.187 inches (0.47 cm)
- **Blade Lift:** 1-1/4 inches (3.18 cm)
- **Quantity per Pack:** 6 blades
- **Application:** Designed for 48-inch cutting decks (requires 3 blades per deck)