

[Skip to content](#)

Manuals+

User Manuals Simplified.



Earthquake 40314 Walk Behind String Mower Owner's Manual

[Home](#) » [Earthquake](#) » Earthquake 40314 Walk Behind String Mower Owner's Manual

Contents [hide](#)

[1 Earthquake 40314 Walk Behind String Mower](#)

[2 INTRODUCTION](#)

[3 WARNINGS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS](#)

[4 GENERAL SAFETY RULES](#)

[5 SPECIFICATIONS](#)

[6 FEATURES](#)

[7 UNPACKING AND ASSEMBLY](#)

[8 OPERATION](#)

[9 ENGINE THROTTLE CONTROL](#)

[10 MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND STORAGE](#)

[11 STORAGE](#)

[12 TROUBLESHOOTING & REPAIR](#)

[13 Documents / Resources](#)

[13.1 References](#)

[14 Related Posts](#)



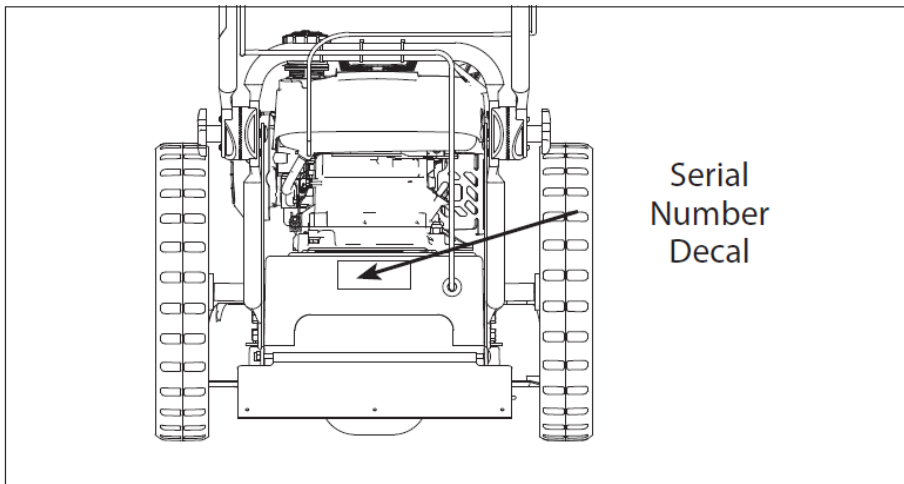
Earthquake 40314 Walk Behind String Mower

STOP! ACTIVATE YOUR WARRANTY BEFORE USE

All products must be registered within 30 days from the date of purchase in order to be covered under warranty. For more information regarding Warranty and Registration please review the Warranty and Registration terms and conditions expressed in the warranty insert.

REGISTRATION AND SERVICE

Excluding emissions-related warranty items, the warranty is valid only if the completed registration is received by Ardisam within 30 days of purchase. You can register your warranty online by visiting www.getearthquake.com. You may also call our Customer Service department at (800) 345-6007 Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to



4:30 p.m. CST.

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing your product from **Earthquake®**. We have worked to ensure that this product meets the highest standards for usability and durability. With proper care, your purchase will provide many years of service.

Please read this entire manual before installation and use. **Earthquake®** reserves the right to change, alter or improve the product and this document at any time without prior notice. Due to continuous product improvements, product images may not be exact. Some assembly may be required.

Read and keep this manual for future reference. This manual contains important information regarding safety, assembly, operation and maintenance. The owner must be certain that all the product information is included with the unit. This information includes the manual, the replacement parts and the warranties. This information must be included to make sure state laws and other laws are followed. All persons to whom rent/loan this unit must have access to and understand this information. This manual should remain with the product even if it is resold.

WARNING

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65 WARNING

THE ENGINE EXHAUST FROM THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CHEMICALS KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER, BIRTH DEFECTS, OR OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HARM.

BATTERY POSTS, TERMINALS, AND RELATED ACCESSORIES CONTAIN LEAD AND LEAD COMPOUNDS, CHEMICALS KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER AND REPRODUCTIVE HARM. WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING.

USE OF THIS PRODUCT MAY CAUSE EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER, BIRTH DEFECTS, OR OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HARM.

This machine is intended to be used by residential homeowners to trim grass as needed outdoors. Using this product for purposes other than its intended use could prove dangerous to you and bystanders. Read this information carefully to learn how to operate and maintain your product properly and to avoid injury and product damage. You are responsible for operating the product properly and safely.

WARNINGS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Accurate assembly and safe and effective use of the machine is the owner's responsibility.

- Read and follow all safety instructions.
- Carefully follow all assembly instructions.
- Maintain the machine according to directions and schedule included in this operator's manual.
- Ensure that anyone who uses the machine is familiar with all controls and safety precautions.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Your manual contains special messages to bring attention to potential safety concerns, machine damage as well as helpful operating and servicing information. Please read all the information carefully to avoid injury and machine damage.

NOTE: General information is given throughout the manual that may help the operator in the operation or service of the machine.



This symbol points out important safety instructions which if not followed could endanger your personal safety. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this equipment.

BEFORE OPERATING EQUIPMENT:

Please read this section carefully. Read entire operating and maintenance instructions for this product. Failure to follow instructions could result in serious injury or death. Operate the machine according to the safety instructions outlined here and inserted throughout the text. Anyone who uses this machine must read the instructions and be familiar with the controls.

NOTICE

NOTICE INDICATES YOUR EQUIPMENT CAN BE DAMAGED IF THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS THAT FOLLOW THIS SIGNAL WORD ARE NOT OBEYED.

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT INDICATES HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR PROPER ASSEMBLY, OPERATION OR MAINTENANCE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT.

CAUTION

CAUTION INDICATES A HAZARD WHICH, IF NOT AVOIDED, COULD RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

WARNING

WARNING INDICATES A HAZARD WHICH, IF NOT AVOIDED, COULD RESULT IN DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE

DANGER

DANGER INDICATES A HAZARD WHICH, IF NOT AVOIDED, CERTAINLY WILL RESULT IN DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

WARNING

- YOU MUST READ, UNDERSTAND AND COMPLY WITH ALL SAFETY AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO SETUP AND OPERATE YOUR MACHINE.
- FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALL SAFETY AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS CAN RESULT IN LOSS OF MACHINE CONTROL, SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY TO YOU AND/OR BYSTANDERS, AND RISK OF EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. THE TRIANGLE IN THE TEXT SIGNIFIES IMPORTANT CAUTIONS OR WARNINGS WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

- Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s). Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the machine before starting.
- Familiarize yourself with all of the safety and operating decals on this equipment and on any of its attachments or accessories.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Only allow responsible individuals, who are familiar with the instructions, to operate the machine.
- Thoroughly inspect the area where the machine is to be used and remove all foreign objects. Your equipment can propel small objects at high speed causing personal injury or property damage. Stay away from breakable objects, such as house windows, automobile, greenhouses, etc.
- Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children, and pets.
- Wear appropriate clothing such as a long-sleeved shirt or jacket. Also wear long trousers or slacks. Do not wear shorts.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can get caught in moving parts.
- Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when operating machine to protect your eyes from foreign objects which can be thrown from the unit.
- Always wear work gloves and sturdy footwear. Wear footwear that will improve footing on slippery surfaces. Leather work shoes or short boots work well for most people. These will protect the operator's ankles and shins from small sticks, splinters, and other debris.
- It is advisable to wear protective headgear to prevent the possibility of being struck by small flying particles, or being struck by low hanging branches, twigs, or other objects which may be unnoticed by the operator.
- Do not operate the machine without proper guards or other safety protective devices in place.
- Use this equipment for its intended purpose only.
- See manufacturer's instructions for proper operation and installation of accessories. Only use accessories approved by the manufacturer.
- Operate only in daylight or good artificial light.
- Do not operate product when fatigued or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other medication which can cause drowsiness or affect your ability to operate this machine safely.
- Never operate machine in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk; never run.
- Before each use, inspect the throttle control lever and cable. Make sure that the cable is free and that the lever is not damaged. Also check the cable linkage running to the carburetor for kinks, loose fittings, and obstructions. Verify that the control bail is working properly.
- Stop the rotating machine head when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads. Wait for the cutting lines to stop rotating.
- Watch for traffic when operating near, or when crossing roads.
- Stop the engine whenever you leave the equipment, before cleaning, repairing or inspecting the unit, be sure the machine head and all moving parts have stopped. Let the engine cool, disconnect the spark plug wire and move it away from the spark plug.
- If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire and prevent it from touching the spark plug. Check immediately for cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
- After striking a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove the wire from the spark plug. Inspect the machine for damage. If damaged, repair before starting and operating the mower.
- Never leave the machine unattended when the engine is running. Remove the wire from the spark plug.
- Regularly inspect the machine. Make sure parts are not bent, damaged or loose.
- Allow muffler and engine areas to cool before touching. Never pick up or carry the machine while the engine is running.
- Prolonged exposure to noise and vibration from gasoline engine powered equipment should be avoided. Take intermittent breaks and/or wear ear protection from engine noise as well as heavy work gloves to reduce vibration in the hands.
- Check local regulations for age restrictions on use of this machine.
- If the noise or vibrations of the machine increase, stop immediately and perform an inspection.
- The fuel used in this machine is considered extremely flammable and should be handled with care. When storing extra fuel be sure that it is in an appropriate container and away from any fire hazards.

SLOPE OPERATION

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. All slopes require extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it. Do mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Do not mow excessively steep slopes (maximum 15 degrees) or areas where the ground is very rough. See the "Slope Guide" in the back of this manual to check a slope. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.

- Remove objects such as rocks, tree limbs, etc.
- Watch for holes, ruts, or bumps. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches, or embankments. The operator could lose footing or balance.
- Do not mow excessively steep slopes.
- Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced footing could cause slipping.

CHILDREN

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the mower and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

- Keep children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult.
- Be alert and turn machine off if children enter the area.
- Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children.
- Never allow children to operate the machine.
- Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.

SERVICE

- Use extra care in handling gasoline and other fuels. They are flammable and vapors are explosive.
- Use only an approved container.
- Never remove gas cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow engine to cool before refueling. Do not smoke while refueling.
- Fill fuel tank outdoors with extreme care. Never fill fuel tank indoors or near appliances with pilot lights, heaters, or other ignition sources. Replace fuel cap securely. If fuel is spilled, do not start the engine but move product and fuel container from area. Clean up spilled fuel and allow to evaporate.
- Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame (such as a water heater), or other ignition source.
- If the fuel has to be drained, this should be done outdoors. The drained fuel should be stored in a container specifically designed for fuel storage or it should be disposed of carefully.
- Engines give off carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless, poison gas. Breathing carbon monoxide can cause nausea, fainting or death. Always start and run engine outdoors. Do not start or run engine in an enclosed area, even if doors or windows are open.
- Never make adjustments or repairs with the engine (motor) running. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting (remove the ignition key if equipped with an electric start). Always wear eye protection when you make adjustments or repairs.
- Check the mower head and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness.
- Keep all nuts and bolts tight and keep equipment in good condition. Check mounting hardware on mower head every time you change mower line and prior to each use.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- When servicing or repairing the mower, do not tip the machine over or up unless specifically instructed to do so in this manual. Service and repair procedures can be done with the mower in an upright position. Some procedures will be easier if the machine is lifted on a raised platform or working surface.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep machine free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage. Allow mower to cool before storing.
- Stop and inspect the equipment if you strike an object. Repair, if necessary, before restarting.
- Always disconnect spark plug wire before cleaning, repairing, or adjusting.
- Do not change the engine governor setting or over-speed the engine.
- Clean and replace safety and instruction decals as necessary.
- To guard against engine over-heating, always have engine debris filter mounted and clean.
- Inspect mower before storage. When not in use, disconnect spark plug lead and store indoors in a dry place locked or otherwise inaccessible to children.
- Use only original equipment or authorized replacement parts.
- Never replace the cutting lines with metal parts.
- When storing gasoline or equipment with fuel in the tank, store away from furnaces, stoves, water heaters or other appliances that have a pilot light or other ignition source because they can ignite gasoline vapors.

SAFETY DECALS AND WARNINGS

Pictured below are safety and hazard symbols on the unit or in this manual. Before you operate your unit, learn and understand the purpose for each symbol.



Avoid Serious Injury Or Death.

Read And Follow Owner's Manual. Do Not Operate When Children Or Others Are Around. Remove Objects That Could Be Thrown By The Cutting Lines. Do Not Service Or Adjust Cutting Head Or Other Moving Parts, Unless Engine Is Stopped And Spark Plug Wire Is Disconnected. Wear Safety Approved Eye Protection When Operating. Go Across Slopes, Not Up And Down. Keep Safety Devices, Such As Guards And Deflectors In Place And Operating. Look Down And Behind



Before And While Moving Backwards.

A: Warning!

B: Read Owner's Manual Before Operating Machine.

C: Do Not Operate While Others Are Around.

D: Remove Objects that Could Be Thrown By This Machine.

E: Never Operate Machine Up and Down Slopes, ALWAYS Operate Mower Across Slopes.

F: Beware of Moving and Rotating Parts.

G: Wear Ear and Eye Protection At All Times.

H: Do Not Service or Adjust Moving Parts Unless the Engine is Stopped and Spark Plug Wire is Disconnected.

- I: Direction of Rotating Mower Lines.
J: Toxic Fumes Do Not Operate in Unventilated Areas.
K: Hot Surfaces.
L: Fire Hazards.
M. Do Not Use In Thunderstorms For severe weather, stop the operation of this machine and seek shelter.
N. Team Lift For your safety, always have at least two people when lifting this machine.
O. Never Fit Metal Cutting Parts Do not attach any metal parts to the cutting head of this machine.
P. Do Not Operate When Children Or Others Are Around.

WARNING

COMBUSTIBLE DEBRIS CAN CATCH FIRE. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCE CODE, SECTION 4442, TO USE OR OPERATE ENGINE-POWERED PRODUCTS ON ANY FOREST-COVERED, BRUSH-COVERED, OR GRASS-COVERED LAND UNLESS THE EXHAUST SYSTEM IS EQUIPPED WITH A SPARK ARRESTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4442, MAINTAINED IN EFFECTIVE WORKING ORDER. OTHER STATES OR FEDERAL JURISDICTIONS MAY HAVE SIMILAR LAWS. CONTACT THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER, RETAILER, OR DEALER TO OBTAIN A SPARK ARRESTER DESIGNED FOR USE WITH THIS PRODUCT.

SPECIFICATIONS

Mower Line Diameter	0.155 Inches
Mower Line Length	21.5 Inches
Mower Cutting Diameter	22 Inches
Wheel Diameter	14 Inches

FEATURES

Read this owner's manual and safety rules before operating your mower. Take time to compare the following illustration with the mower to familiarize yourself with the product and its controls. SEE FIGURE 1.

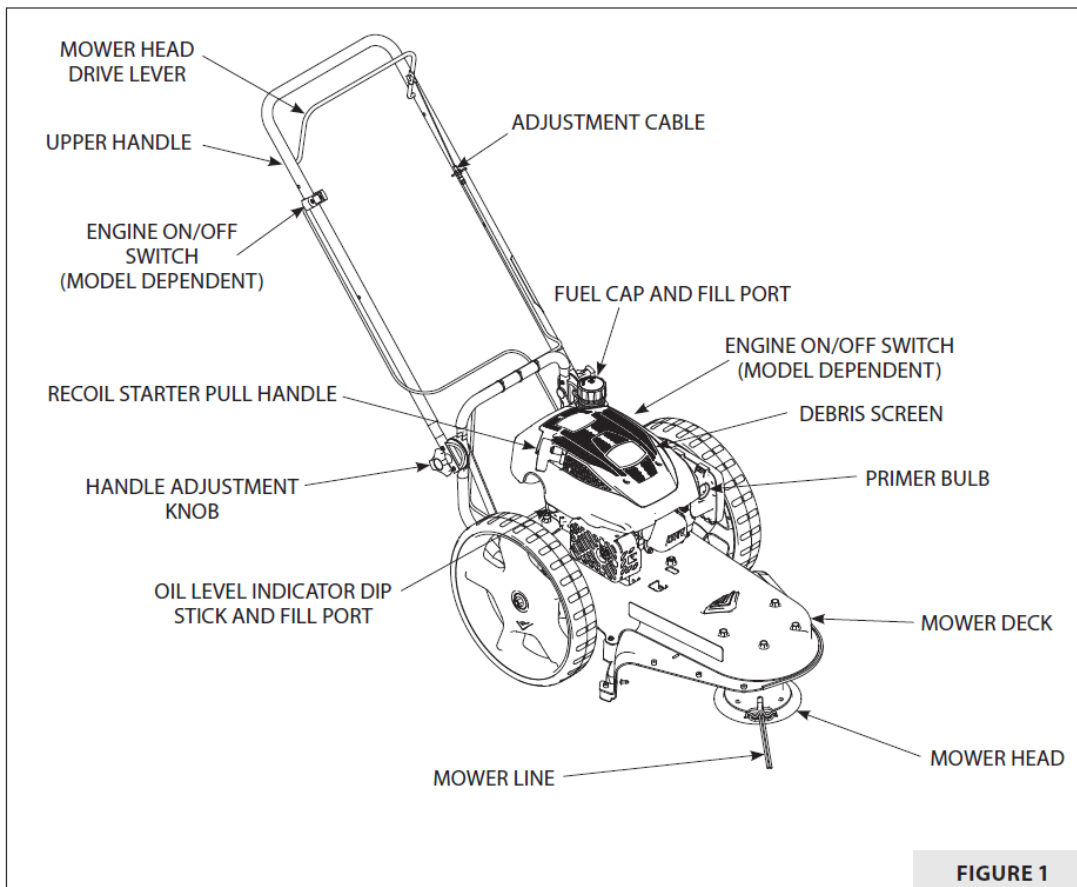


FIGURE 1

UNPACKING AND ASSEMBLY

WARNING

- USE THE CORRECT PERSONAL PROTECTION. WEAR SAFETY GLASSES OR EYE SHIELDS WHILE ASSEMBLING OR OPERATING THE STRING MOWER.
- REMOVE SPARK PLUG WIRE FROM SPARK PLUG BEFORE DOING ANY ASSEMBLY OR MAINTENANCE TO THE STRING MOWER

TO REMOVE THE MOWER FROM THE CARTON

1. Remove any of the loose parts in packaging, including the parts bags, from the carton.
2. Remove the packing material positioned around the unit.
3. Cut down all four corners of the carton and lay the side panels flat.

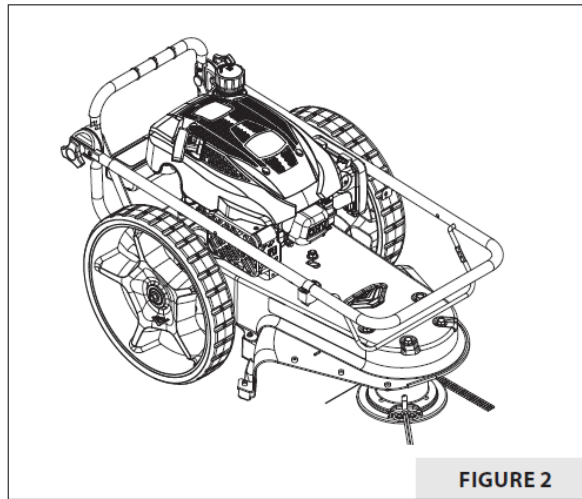


FIGURE 2

4. Pull the mower out of the carton. SEE FIGURE 2

HOW TO RAISE THE HANDLE

1. Hold the handle with one hand and loosen both handle adjustment knobs until the ratchet teeth are disengaged. Do not remove the handle adjustment knobs.
2. Raise the handle to the operating position.
3. Stand in the operator's position behind the mower. Put the handle in a comfortable position. Make sure both sides of the handle are level.
NOTE: Make sure the cables are not caught between the upper and lower handle.
4. Tighten the handle adjustment knobs. Make sure the handle pivots are locked in place. **SEE FIGURE 3.**

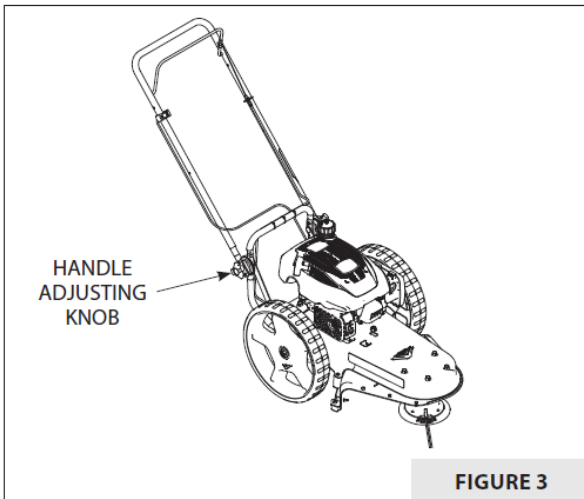


FIGURE 3

WARNING

- BE CAREFUL AROUND MOVING PARTS. THE MOWER HEAD WILL CONTINUE TO ROTATE FOR SEVERAL SECONDS AFTER THE ENGINE HAS STOPPED.
- FOLLOW THE ENGINE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TYPE OF GASOLINE AND OIL TO USE.
- ALWAYS USE A SAFETY GASOLINE CONTAINER. DO NOT SMOKE WHEN ADDING GASOLINE TO THE ENGINE.
- WHEN INSIDE AN ENCLOSURE, DO NOT FILL WITH GASOLINE. BEFORE YOU ADD GASOLINE, STOP THE ENGINE. LET THE ENGINE COOL FOR SEVERAL MINUTES.

ENGINE PREPARATION

See the engine manufacturer's instructions for the type of gasoline and oil to use. Before you use the unit, read the information on safety, operation, maintenance, and storage.

NOTE: Engine does not contain OIL or GASOLINE when shipped from the factory. You must service the engine before operation.

FILL CRANKCASE WITH OIL

1. Remove the oil dipstick. Fill the crankcase to the FULL line on dipstick. DO NOT OVERFILL. **SEE FIGURE 4.**

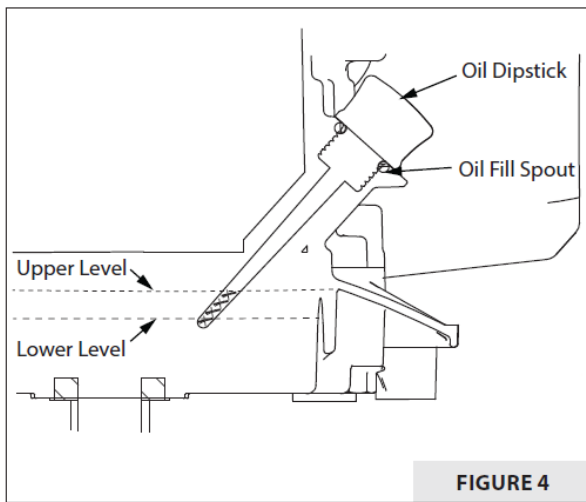


FIGURE 4

2. Install the oil dipstick and tighten securely.

FILL FUEL TANK WITH GASOLINE

See the engine manufacturer's instructions for the type of gasoline to use.

OPERATION

HOW TO STOP THE MOWER HEAD

Release the control lever. It will return to its open position and disengage the mower head.

HOW TO STOP THE ENGINE

Set the ON/OFF Switch to the OFF position.

HOW TO USE THE MOWER HEAD CONTROL LEVER

1. To engage the mower head, hold the control lever against the handle. The faster the engine runs, the faster the mower head will rotate. **SEE FIGURE 5.**

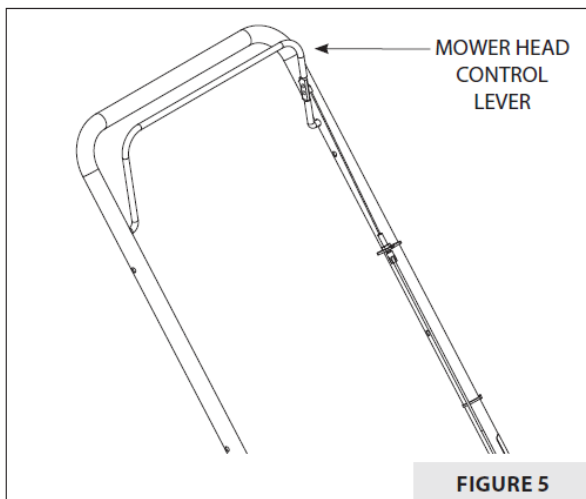


FIGURE 5

2. Once the mower head is rotating, push the mower forward to mow.

CAUTION

- IMPROPER TREATMENT OF THE STRING MOWER CAN DAMAGE IT AND SHORTEN ITS LIFE.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CRANK OR START THE ENGINE BEFORE IT HAS BEEN PROPERLY SERVICED WITH THE RECOMMENDED OIL. THIS MAY RESULT IN AN ENGINE FAILURE.

ENGINE THROTTLE CONTROL

The engine throttle speed is a factory setting. It is designed to ensure proper speed of your string mower during all operating conditions.

HOW TO USE THE PRIMER BULB

1. Push the primer bulb three times. Wait approximately two seconds between each push. **SEE FIGURE 6.**

NOTE: Do not use the primer bulb to restart a warm engine after a short shutdown. Over priming can cause the engine to flood.

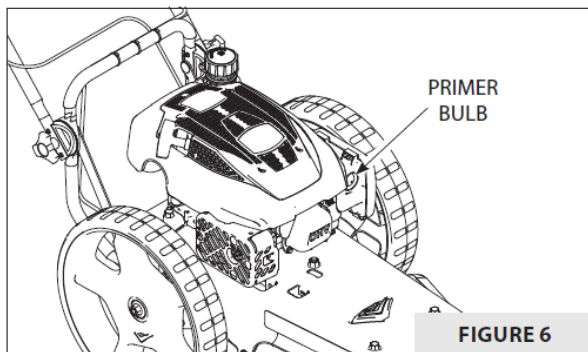


FIGURE 6

HOW TO START THE ENGINE

NOTE: Your engine will smoke the first time it is started. It is burning off the protective coating that is on the internal engine parts.

1. Before each use, remove debris from the debris screen. **SEE FIGURE 1 IN THE "FEATURES" SECTION**. Debris can cause the engine to overheat. Wipe the debris screen with a cloth or paper towel.
2. Set ON/OFF Switch to ON.
3. To start a cold engine, push the primer bulb three times. Wait two seconds between each push of the primer bulb. **SEE FIGURE 6**.
NOTE: Do not use the primer to start a warm engine.
4. Firmly hold the recoil starter handle with your right hand.
5. Pull back sharply on the recoil starter handle.
NOTE: Do not allow the starter rope to snap back. Let the starter rope slowly rewind as you hold the recoil starter handle.

TIP: If the engine fails to start after three pulls, push the primer bulb two times and pull the recoil starter handle again.

MOWER TIPS

- If the weeds or grass are tall and thick, operate the mower at a slower walking speed.
- Frequently clean the underside of the mower to remove any grass build up. See the "Maintenance, Service and Storage" section for details.
- For best results and longer lasting line, use the ends of the line to do the cutting. This is easily done by moving slowly through very thick or heavy weeds.
- If the mower lines become too short, it will take longer to complete the job. If the mower lines are worn to less than half their original length, change to a new mower line. See more on how to replace the mower line in the "Maintenance, Service and Storage" section.
- Do not mow on excessively steep slopes. If a slope is difficult to stand on, do not mow. Do not mow on slopes when the ground is slippery or wet. Mow across the face of a slope, not up and down.
- Mower head contact to concrete, asphalt and harder surfaces may create premature wear to the height guide.

WARNING

- DO NOT LEAVE THE STRING MOWER UNATTENDED WHILE THE ENGINE IS RUNNING. WAIT FOR THE MOWER LINES TO STOP ROTATING.
- NEVER RUN THE ENGINE INDOORS OR IN A POORLY VENTILATED AREA. ENGINE EXHAUST CONTAINS CARBON MONOXIDE, AN ODORLESS AND DEADLY GAS. KEEP HANDS, FEET, HAIR AND LOOSE CLOTHING AWAY FROM THE MOWER AND ANY MOVING PARTS ON THE ENGINE. AVOID TOUCHING THE MUFFLER AND SURROUNDING AREAS. TEMPERATURES MAY EXCEED 150 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.
- DEBRIS SUCH AS STICKS, GRAVEL OR ROCKS CAN BE THROWN WITH SUFFICIENT FORCE TO CAUSE PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND STORAGE

NOTE: Maintenance, replacement or repair of the emissions control devices and systems may be performed by any non-road engine repair establishment or individuals. However, items must be serviced by an authorized dealer to obtain "no charge" emissions control service. Good maintenance is essential to help reduce air pollution and for safe, economical and trouble-free operation.

Service Records	Before Each Use	Every 25 Hours	As Noted	Service Date
Check mower lines	X		1	
Check mower head engagement	X			
Engine/machine cleaning	X		2	
Check nuts and bolts	X			
Lubricate jackshaft assembly (See 'How to Set the Height of the Cut' section in this manual. Loosen and slide cutting head up shaft. Apply 'NLGI grade 2' grease to shaft. Retighten head at preferred height.)		X		
Lubricate wheel bearings		X		

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Note 1 – When old line is half the original length, replace with new line.

Note 2 – Clean daily if used in extremely dusty or dirty conditions.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The warranty on this mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from the warranty, the

operator must maintain the mower as instructed in this manual. Some adjustments must be made periodically to properly maintain your mower. All adjustments in the "Service and Adjustments" section of this manual must be checked at least once each season.

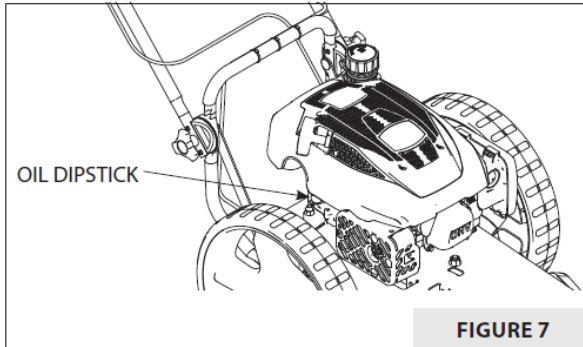
WARNING

- BEFORE YOU INSPECT, CLEAN OR SERVICE THE MOWER, STOP THE ENGINE. MAKE SURE THAT ALL MOVING PARTS HAVE STOPPED. DISCONNECT THE WIRE FROM THE SPARK PLUG.

HOW TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL

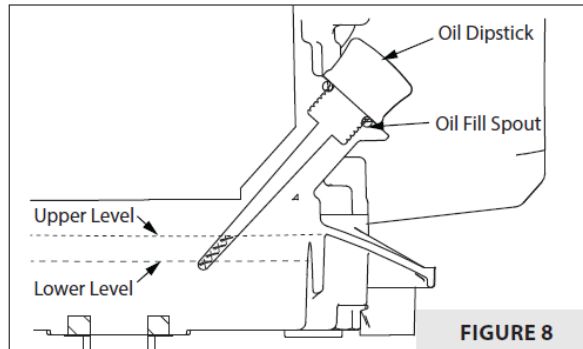
Be sure the engine is not operating and is located on a level surface before checking or refilling oil. Engine should be warm for easy removal of oil.

1. Detach spark plug wire and move away from spark plug. If the engine uses a battery, disconnect at negative terminal.
2. Remove dipstick and carefully tip the engine toward the dipstick side to empty oil from oil fill area. Empty oil into a suitable oil container and dispose of oil properly.



SEE FIGURE 7.

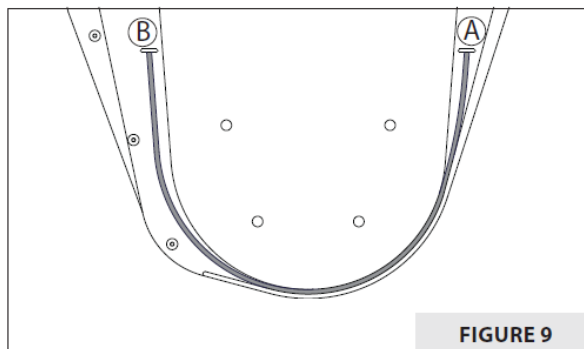
3. Tip engine back onto a level surface and fill with appropriate oil to the top of the marking on the dipstick **SEE FIGURE 8.** DO NOT OVERFILL. For proper oil capacity, see the engine manufacturer's instructions.



4. Reinsert dipstick and tighten. **SEE FIGURE 8.**

HOW TO REPLACE THE MOWER LINE

For the best performance, use a heavy gauge (0.155" diameter) mower line. Cut the length of the mower line to 21.5". Use the length guide, located on the shield, to make sure the mower line is the correct length. Place one end of the mower line at location "A" and bend it along the raised portion of the shield. Cut

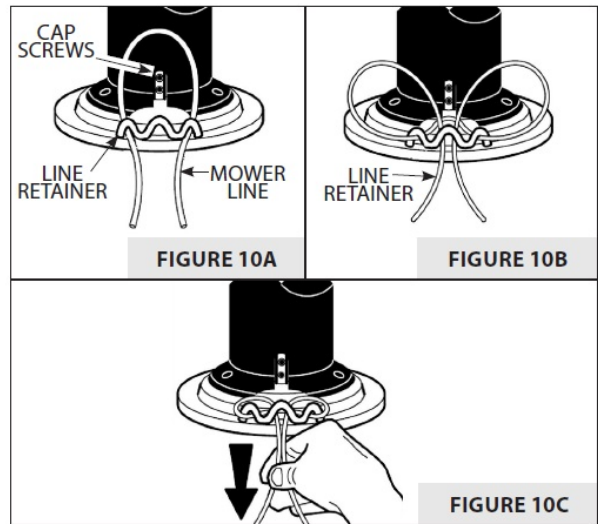


line at location "B". **SEE FIGURE 9.**

Do not allow the length of the lines to vary more than one inch. This is important to make sure the mower head is balanced and does not vibrate.

NOTE: To extend the life of the mower line, keep the mower line moist. If not kept moist, the nylon mower line will become dry and brittle. Keep extra mower line in a can of water. The line will then stay flexible and easy to change. A flexible line will also last much longer.

1. Stop the engine. Wait for all moving parts to stop.
2. Remove the worn mower line from the line retainer.
3. First, thread the ends of the new mower line through the outside loops. **SEE FIGURE 10A.**
4. Next, take the ends of the line, cross over the line retainer, and thread the ends through the center hold. **SEE FIGURE 10B.**



5. Then, check to make sure that the ends of the line are even. **SEE FIGURE 10C.**

TO DETACH THE WHEELS

To detach the wheels, loosen the axle nuts and remove the wheel. Reverse instructions to reattach tire. **SEE FIGURE 13.**

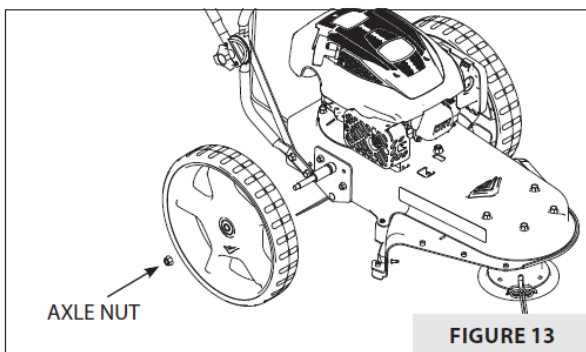


FIGURE 13

HOW TO ADJUST THE HEIGHT/ANGLE OF THE HANDLE

Use the knobs on each side of the handle to adjust the height of the handle. **SEE FIGURE 14.**

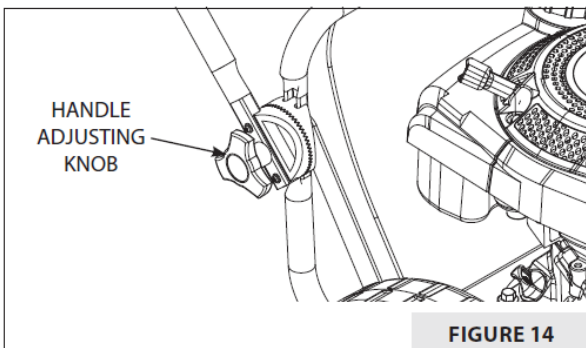


FIGURE 14

1. Hold the handle with one hand and loosen both knobs until the ratchet teeth are disengaged. Do not remove the bolts.
2. Move the handle up or down to the desired position, then align the ratchet teeth. Make sure both sides of the handle are level.
3. Tighten (lock) the knobs.

WARNING

BEFORE YOU SET THE HEIGHT OF THE CUT, STOP THE ENGINE. WAIT FOR ALL MOVING PARTS TO STOP. ALLOW THE ENGINE TO COOL AND DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE.

HOW TO SET THE HEIGHT OF THE CUT

The height of the cut can be set from 1-1/2 inches to three (3) inches. The recommended cutting height for the average yard is two (2) inches. **SEE FIGURE 15.**

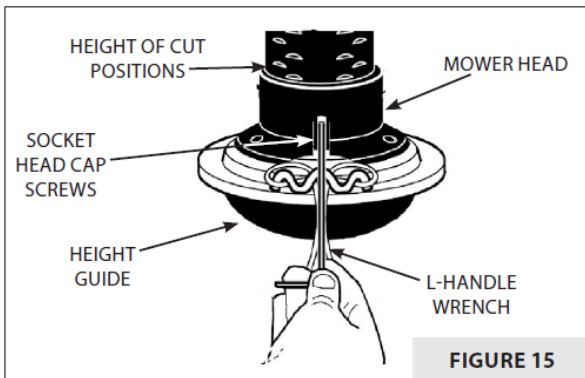


FIGURE 15

1. Use the L-handle wrench found in the parts bag to loosen the socket head cap screws shown in the figure below.

NOTE: There are two socket head cap screws.

2. Set the mower head at the desired height.
3. Tighten the socket head cap screws.

WARNING BEFORE YOU REMOVE THE DRIVE BELT, DISCONNECT THE WIRE FROM THE SPARK PLUG.

IMPORTANT

TEST THE DRIVE SYSTEM. START THE ENGINE AND ENGAGE AND DISENGAGE THE MOWER HEAD SEVERAL TIMES. WHEN DISENGAGED, MAKE SURE THE MOWER HEAD COMPLETELY STOPS WHEN RESTING ON THE GROUND. IF THE MOWER HEAD CONTINUES TO ROTATE, TAKE THE MOWER TO AN AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER.

HOW TO REPLACE THE DRIVE BELT

To replace the drive belt, the debris shield and mower head must be removed as follows: SEE FIGURES 16 AND 17.

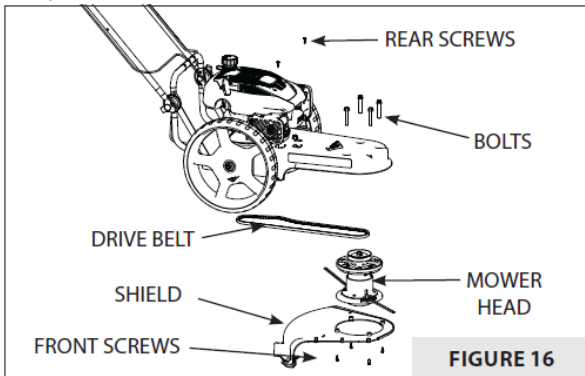


FIGURE 16

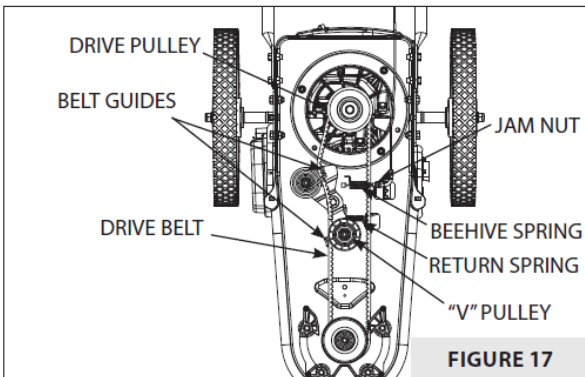


FIGURE 17

1. Remove the two screws that hold the rear of the debris shield to the mower housing.
2. Remove the four screws that hold the front of the debris shield to the mower head.
3. Remove the four bolts that hold the mower head spindle to the mower housing.
4. Remove the "V" pulley from the idler bracket.

NOTE: On some models, it is necessary to loosen the mounting bolt for the drive pulley to remove the drive belt. Do not bend the belt guides. Use only OEM replacement belts.

5. To assemble the drive belt, reverse the above steps. Make sure all fasteners are tight. Make sure the mounting bolt for the drive pulley is tight.
6. Check the routing of the drive belt. Make sure the drive belt is inside of all belt guides as shown.

WARNING DO NOT REMOVE GASOLINE WHILE INSIDE A BUILDING, NEAR A FIRE, OR WHILE YOU SMOKE. GASOLINE FUMES CAN CAUSE AN EXPLOSION OR A FIRE.

BELT TENSION ADJUSTMENT

Proper belt tension is critical to good performance. After 1/2 hour of operation, the engagement cable may have to be adjusted due to initial stretch. Thereafter, check tension after every two hours of operation. Proper tension is achieved when the beehive spring extends 1/8" – 1/4" when drive lever is engaged.

To increase belt tension do as follows:

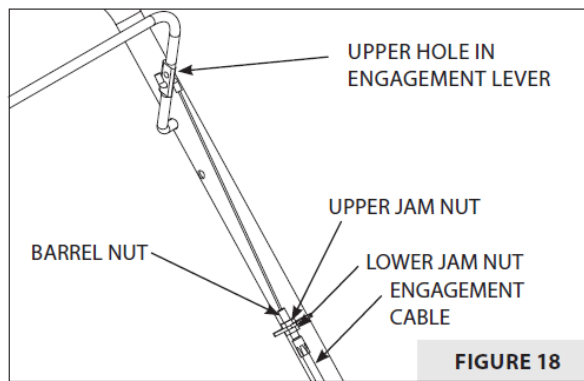


FIGURE 18

1. Loosen upper jam nut on engagement cable. **SEE FIGURE 18.**
2. Tighten the lower jam nut in 1/8" increments, making sure not to over-adjust the tension.
3. Check adjustment by measuring the beehive spring extension when the drive lever is engaged. (Proper spring extension is 1/8" – 1/4")
4. When proper adjustment is achieved, tighten the bottom jam nut.

NOTE: A second cable adjustment can be found on the engagement lever. The upper hole in the engagement lever can be used to further tension the belt. **SEE FIGURE 18.**

NOTE: A short buzzing noise can be heard when the engagement lever is released. This is normal, caused by the teeth of the cogged belt catching the wire guide, stopping the rotation of the belt. This does not require the belt tension to be adjusted.

NOTE: The more threads of the barrel nut on the cable sit below the bracket, the more tension on the belt.

STORAGE

When the mower is put in storage for thirty days or more, follow the steps below to make sure the mower is in good condition the following season.

MOWER:

Completely clean the mower

Remove and discard line or store in a sealed container. Put the mower in a building that has good ventilation.

NOTE: A yearly check-up or tune-up at an authorized service dealer will ensure that the mower will provide maximum performance for the next season.

ENGINE:

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is important to prevent gum deposits from forming in fuel system parts such as the carburetor, fuel filter, fuel hose, and tank during storage. Also, using alcohol blended fuels (called gasohol, ethanol or methanol) can attract moisture which leads to separation and formation of acids during storage. Acidic gas can damage the fuel system of an engine while in storage.

1. Drain all gasoline from the fuel tank. Let the engine run until it is out of gasoline. If you do not want to remove gasoline, add a fuel stabilizer to any gasoline left in the tank. A fuel stabilizer will minimize the formation of gum deposits and acids. If the tank is almost empty, mix the fuel stabilizer with fresh gasoline in a separate container and add the mixture to the tank. Always follow the instructions on the stabilizer container. Run the engine at least ten minutes after stabilizer is added to allow the mixture to reach the carburetor.
2. Drain the oil from a warm engine. Fill the engine crankcase with new oil.
3. Remove the spark plug from the cylinder. Pour one ounce of oil into the cylinder. Slowly pull the recoil starter handle so that the oil will protect the cylinder. Install a new spark plug in the cylinder.
4. Completely clean the mower, including dirt and debris from the cylinder cooling fins and the engine housing.
5. When not in use, disconnect spark plug lead and store in a well-ventilated area inaccessible to children.

TROUBLESHOOTING & REPAIR

We build quality and durability into the design of our products; but no amount of careful design by us, and careful maintenance by you, can guarantee a repair-free life for your String Mower. Most repairs will be minor, and easily fixed by following the suggestions in the troubleshooting guide in this section.

The guide will help you pinpoint the causes of common problems and identify remedies.

For more complicated repairs, you may want to rely on an authorized service center. A parts breakdown is located on an extra insert manual included with this product.

We will always be glad to answer any questions you have, or help you find suitable assistance. To order parts or inquire about warranty, call or email us using the contact information found below or listed on the "contact us" page on our website.

ORDERING REPLACEMENT PARTS

Parts can be obtained direct from the factory. To order parts visit the website listed at the bottom of the page or call (800) 345-6007. Please include the following information with your order:

Part Number(s), Part Description, Quantity, Model Number and Serial Number.

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE:

Trouble	Cause	Correction
	Spark plug wire disconnected	Connect spark plug wire
	Engine not primed	Prime engine
	Defective or incorrectly gapped spark plug	Inspect or replace spark plug

Engine does not start	Fuel tank empty	Add fuel
	Dirty carburetor or fuel line	Clean carburetor or fuel line
	Dirty air filter	Replace air filter
	Carburetor out of adjustment	For carburetor adjustment, take the unit to an authorized service center
	Engine flooded	Wait several minutes before starting
	ON/OFF Switch in incorrect position	Move switch to ON position
	Stale gasoline	Drain old gasoline and add fresh gas
	Defective ON/OFF Switch or wire	Inspect and replace damaged parts
Engine runs poorly	Bad spark plug	Replace spark plug
	Dirty air filter	Replace air filter
	Carburetor out of adjustment	For carburetor adjustment, take the unit to an authorized service center
	Stale gasoline	Drain old gasoline and add fresh gas
	Engine cooling system clogged	Clean debris screen and engine cooling fins
Engine overheats	Engine cooling system clogged	Clean debris screen and engine cooling fins
	Carburetor out of adjustment	For carburetor adjustment, take the unit to an authorized service center
	Oil level is low	Add oil
Engine will not stop running	ON/OFF Switch failed	Inspect and replace damaged parts
	Wire disconnected from ON/OFF Switch	Inspect, repair, or replace damaged parts
Poor mowing performance	Mower line length is too short	Correct line length is 21.5 inches. When the line is less than 1/2 of this length, replace the line.
	Belt stretched	Adjust belt engagement
	Socket head cap screws for the mower head are loose	Tighten socket head cap screws with L-handle wrench
	Mower line lengths are substantially different	Adjust mower line to approximately equal lengths
Mower vibrates	Loose nuts or bolts	Check all bolts and nuts, including engine bolts

Broken mower head

Replace broken part

Mower line not properly attached

Follow instructions on decal or in the "Maintenance, Service and Storage" section of the owner's manual

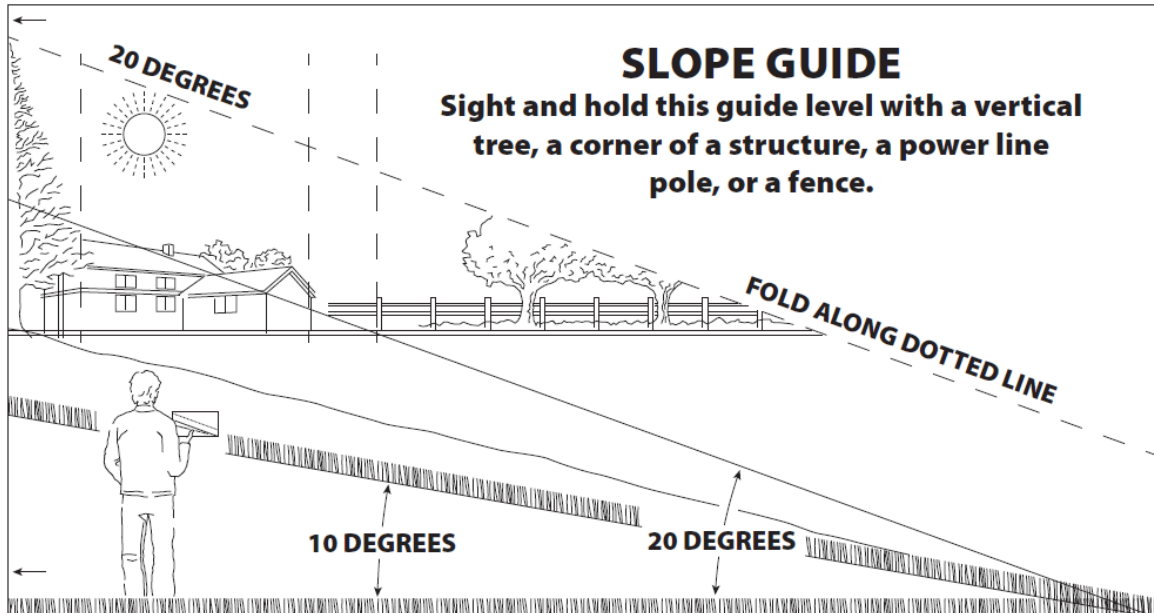
Mower head does not retain line

Broken line retainer

Replace mower head assembly

Mower line not correct size

Use a 0.155" diameter mower line



SLOPE GUIDE

Use this guide to determine slope angle.

DO NOT MOW ON A SLOPE GREATER THAN 20 DEGREES.

- A 10 degree slope is a hill that increases in height at approximately 1.76 feet (53.6 cm) in 10 feet (304.5 cm).
- A 20 degree slope is a hill that increases in height at approximately 3.64 feet (110.9 cm) in 10 feet (304.5 cm).

WARNING

USE EXTREME CARE AT ALL TIMES AND AVOID SUDDEN TURNS OR MANEUVERS. FOLLOW OTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL FOR SAFETY IN MOWING ON SLOPES. NEVER OPERATE A MOWER UP AND DOWN SLOPES, OPERATE ACROSS SLOPES ONLY. USE EXTRA CARE WHEN OPERATING ON OR NEAR SLOPES AND OBSTRUCTIONS.

1730 Industrial Avenue PO Box 666 Cumberland, WI 54829

Phone : (800) 345-6007

Fax : (715) 822-2124

www.getearthquake.com

Get parts online at www.getearthquake.com or Call 800-345-6007 M-F 8-4:30 CST

Documents / Resources



[Earthquake 40314 Walk Behind String Mower](#) [pdf] Owner's Manual
40314, Walk Behind String Mower, String Mower, 40314, Mower



[Earthquake 40314 Walk Behind String Mower](#) [pdf] User Manual
40314 Walk Behind String Mower, 40314, Walk Behind String Mower, Behind String Mower, String Mower, Mower

References

- [📄 Earthquake | Groundbreaking Power Equipment – Earthquake Outdoor Power Equipment](#)
- [📄 Earthquake | Groundbreaking Power Equipment – Earthquake Outdoor Power Equipment](#)

[Manuals+](#),

- [home](#)
- [privacy](#)