

SAFETY

HANDLE FUEL SAFELY - AVOID FIRES

Handle gasoline with care; it is highly flammable. Use an approved gasoline container.

Fill the fuel tank outdoors.

DO NOT fill tank completely full.

DO NOT smoke while you fill fuel tank.

DO NOT remove gas cap if engine is running.

READ SAFETY SIGNS

Carefully read and follow all caution stickers.

WARNING

**ALL GUARDS MUST BE IN PLACE
WHILE MACHINE IS IN OPERATION**

WARNING

**KEEP HANDS & FEET AWAY
FROM MOVING PARTS**

OPERATE SAFELY

Carefully read this manual and operate sod cutter correctly.

PROTECT CHILDREN

Keep children and pets out of the area where you are cutting sod.

AVOID TIPPING

Make sure you do not get too close to sharp drop-offs to avoid tipping sod cutter over.

OPERATE SAFELY ON SLOPES

You may cut sod any direction on slopes, however, make sure you do this carefully. Cutting on slopes can be dangerous. To avoid any accidents, make sure to leave yourself room to correct the problem if one arises. Always park your sod cutter on level ground.

PRACTICE SAFE MAINTENANCE

Keep all machine parts in good condition and fastened in place. Fix damages immediately. Replace worn or broken parts. Whenever you work on the sod cutter, disconnect spark plug wire.

START ENGINE SAFELY

Make sure hands and feet are out of the way of moving parts when starting engine.

ENGINE STARTING PROCEDURES

NOTICE: There are two locations on this engine that require oil, both the crankcase and the transmission (gearbox). Running the engine or gearbox with a low oil level can cause engine damage. Refer to the engine manual for complete engine information and recommendations.

ENGINE OIL LEVEL CHECK

1. **BEFORE CHECKING ENGINE:**
 - make certain the engine is level
 - the engine switch is in the OFF position
 - the sod cutter blade is NOT engaged
 - the drive wheels are disengaged.
2. Remove the filler cap/dipstick and wipe it clean.
3. Insert and remove the dipstick without screwing it into the filler neck. Check the oil level shown on the dipstick.
4. If the oil level is low, fill to the edge of the oil filler hole with the recommended oil. SAE 10W-30 is recommended for general use. Refer to engine oil recommendations in engine manual for other viscosities and information.
5. Screw in the filler cap/dipstick securely.

TRANSMISSION OIL LEVEL CHECK

1. Check the transmission oil level with the engine stopped and in a level position.
2. Remove the filler cap/dipstick and wipe it clean.
3. Insert and remove the dipstick without screwing it into the filler hole. Check the oil level shown on the dipstick.
4. If the oil level is low, add oil to reach the upper limit mark on the dipstick. Use the same oil that is recommended for the engine, SAE 10W-30.
5. Screw in the filler cap/dipstick securely.

HYDROSTATIC TRANSMISSION CHECK

1. Check the hydrostatic transmission level with the engine stopped and in a level position.
2. Visually inspect to see if level is low.
3. If oil level is low, add oil to reach upper limit mark on reservoir.
4. Use 20W 50 Oil.

STARTING ENGINE

1. Turn fuel cock to the "open" position.
2. Turn choke on (closed).
3. Turn ignition switch to "on".
4. Move throttle lever on engine to half throttle position.
5. Pull recoil starter rope until engine starts.
6. After engine is warm, turn off choke (open).

7. Allow engine to run one minute before cutting sod.
8. Check engine rpm setting before operating. DO NOT exceed 3600 rpm.

STOPPING ENGINE

1. Turn throttle to "slow" position.
2. Turn off ignition switch.

OPERATING THE SOD CUTTER

PREPARATION

1. Police lawn area for obstacles and debris (i.e. sprinklers, hoses, toys, etc.). Remove all items.
2. Make sure underground sprinkler heads and other hidden obstacles are marked to prevent damage.
3. Mark other areas where sod cutting will be a problem or too risky (i.e. mud, tree roots, steep hills).

OPERATING

1. Start the engine. **CAUTION:** To avoid injury, do not place your feet or other body parts under the blade while starting the engine.
2. Push shifter handle into neutral position.
3. Select the correct cutting depth desired up to 2 1/2 inches. Loosen the tee handle from the depth gauge plate, located under the height adjustment bar, (#3 on illustration) and put it to the correct height setting. Tighten the tee handle.
4. Raise the main handle upward so the front nose of the sod cutter rests on the ground.
5. Loosen the 1/2" handle nut (#2 on illustration) and lower the height adjustment bar to rest on the depth gauge. Now tighten the 1/2" handle nut securely so it will not loosen with the vibration of the machine.
6. Go to the back of the machine and lower the handle until the cutting blade rests on the ground. You are now ready to cut sod.
7. Push shifter handle into sod cutting position.
8. Pull the throttle to the desired operating speed (#6 on illustration). Maximum engine rpm is recommended for smooth operation.
9. After cutting a short distance, stop machine by letting the twist grip throttle control go back to its original position. Check thickness of cut and adjust if necessary.
10. At the end of each cutting pass, lift up on the handle bar to clear the cutting blade from the sod. Retard the throttle control and turn machine around into the position for the next cut.
11. When finished cutting sod, reverse steps 6 through 3, leaving the wheel drive handle in transportation position.

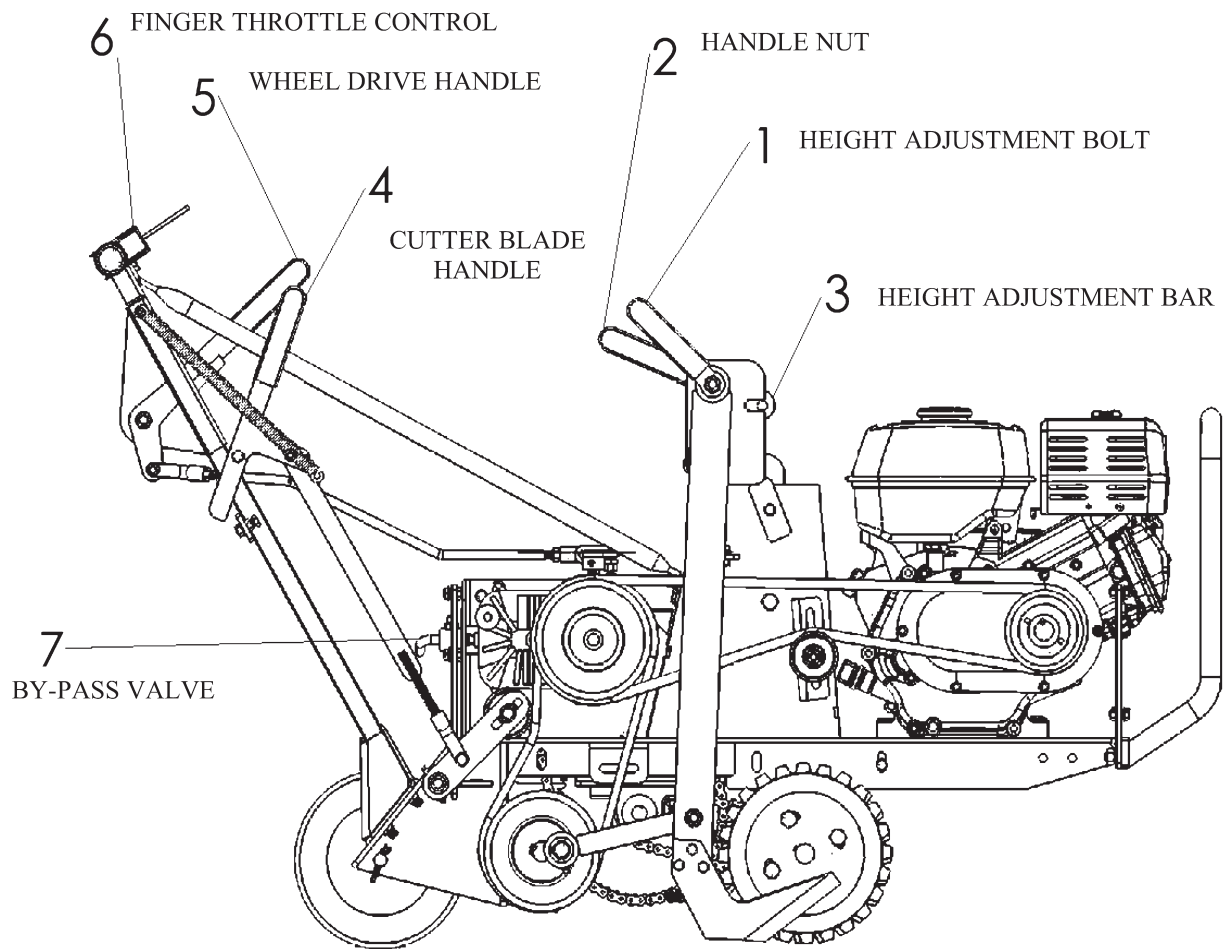
GENERAL MAINTENANCE

To keep the sod cutter in good operating condition, perform the following:

- Keep blade sharp; a sharp blade cuts cleaner, faster and more uniformly and places less load on the machine. Sharpen cutting edge on bevel or top side only.
- Keep drive belt at proper tension and free of oil and dirt at all times.
- Check engine oil level and air filter element daily.
- Check for loose bolts and connections.
- All grease fittings are pressurized type. Use a good grade Lithium Base Grease or equivalent. Grease eccentric arms sparingly every 4 hours of service, all others daily. Wipe off all grease fittings before and after each greasing (there are a total of 7 grease fittings).
- To make sure the chain on the front drive wheels is tight, you will need to remove the chain guard to check this. If tightening is required, loosen nuts and bolts on the 3/4" pillow block bearings and push the bearings toward the back of the sod cutter until chain is tight. Make sure both bearings go back evenly to keep jackshaft running even with the frame. After doing this, retighten nuts and bolts on the bearing and replace the chain guard.
- Engine (refer to Honda owner's manual).
- Check chain tension on chain on left side of hydrostatic unit. If this needs to be tightened, loosen bolt and nut on sprocket and move in slot to tighten chain and re-tighten bolt and nut.

SAFETY WARNING

DO NOT STORE GASOLINE (FUEL) UNNECESSARILY OVER LONG PERIODS OF TIME. TO PREVENT POSSIBLE EXPLOSION, STORE ONLY IN AN APPROVED "SAFE" CONTAINER. TO PREVENT EXPLOSION OF VAPORIZED FUEL, DO NOT STORE MACHINE WITH FUEL IN TANK OR CARBURETOR IN AN ENCLOSURE WITH OPEN FLAME. (EXAMPLE: FURNACE OR WATER HEATER PILOT LIGHT.)



This is not a complete copy of the Operator's Manual. Available upon request.