



# Safety First

**Owning  
Lawn And Garden  
Equipment Doesn't  
Have To Cost  
An Arm  
And A Leg.**



JOHN DEERE



## When operating equipment...

### Children should be seen, not hurt.

- Kids and power equipment do not mix. Do not allow children to operate any outdoor mowing or handheld equipment.
- Keep children indoors and under the watchful eye of a responsible adult, other than the operator, when a mower, trimmer, or blower is being operated.
- Do not carry or let children ride on the machine, on any attachment, or in a cart or trailer, even when the blades are turned off. Death or serious injury can occur when young children associate having fun with a lawn mowing machine simply because someone has given them a ride on a machine. Children who have been given rides in the past may suddenly appear in the mowing area for another ride and be run over or backed over by the machine.



- Store equipment indoors, in a dry, open area out of the reach of children. Don't store equipment or fuel containers in an enclosed place where fumes can accumulate or be exposed to an open flame, spark, or pilot light.

- Before working with fuel, extinguish all cigarettes and other sources of ignition.

- Store fuel in an approved non-metal fuel container. And be sure to keep fuel where children can't reach it.



- Never remove the fuel tank cap or add fuel when the engine is running or hot. Add fuel outdoors, where there's plenty of ventilation.

- Always clean up any spilled fuel immediately. Move the machine away from the spill before starting the engine.



## Sign language could save your life.

- Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in manuals provided, before starting. Be thoroughly familiar with controls and the proper use of the machine before starting.



- Before operating equipment, inspect machine carefully. Replace all worn or damaged safety and instruction labels. Replace worn or broken parts immediately. Keep all parts in good condition and fastened



in place. Keep engine free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease to reduce fire hazard. Tighten nuts, bolts, and screws to keep equipment in safe working condition.

- Avoid injury from contacting blades or trimmer line. Keep all safety devices, switches, guards, and shields in place and working. Keep hands and feet away from blades, mower decks, and line trimmer head when engine is running.



- Breathing exhaust fumes can be fatal. Never run an engine indoors or in a closed area where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.
- Keep sparks and flames away from batteries— battery gas can explode. Use a flashlight to check the battery fluid level.
- Shut off the engine before servicing. On electric start units, disconnect the battery ground cable before working on the electrical system. When working on two-cycle machines, remember to turn the switch off and disconnect the spark plug wire.
- Keep tires at pressure recommended in operator's manual for a stable and comfortable ride.





## Escape the landscape pitfalls.

- As you put in new plants, use any extra soil to fill in depressions and low spots. Leveling the terrain provides a smoother surface for a walk-behind mower or riding mower.



- Mow up and down the slope with lawn tractors on hillsides, not across. For zero-turn mowers, mow across the slope, not up and down. Avoid sudden stops or starts.

- Landscape with safety in mind. Remember that small saplings grow into large trees; be sure to leave enough space for your mower to get around a tree when it's full-grown. Avoid growing grass in tight quarters that require you to mow in reverse.



- Take a careful look at hillsides. If you cannot maintain control on the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, don't mow the slope—plant a decorative ground cover instead of grass.

- Remove low-hanging tree branches that can flick an eye or knock you off balance while mowing. In addition to giving you a clear view, pruning allows sunlight to reach the grass growing near the tree.

- Do not use a hedge trimmer to trim hedges higher than your shoulders.

- Remove any objects or debris that might be thrown by mower or edger blades. Keep people away from mowing and trimming area to protect bystanders from thrown objects.





## Dress for success.

- Loud noise can cause impairment or loss of hearing. Wear a suitable protective device such as earmuffs or earplugs, especially when operating a line trimmer, power blower, or chain saw.



- Loose clothing can snag on controls and get caught in moving parts. Tuck in your shirttail, avoid wearing jewelry, and keep long hair safely secured back.

- Wear close-fitting clothes, long slacks, and closed-toe shoes with traction soles for protection.





- When operating lawn and garden equipment, always use full eye-protection to protect yourself against flying debris.
- Wear gloves with a non-slip grip when operating hand-held equipment and when servicing equipment.





## Some of our best features...



- Interlock system assures engine will not start unless mower blades are turned off, brake is on, and traction drive is disengaged.

- Seat safety switch stops the mower blades if you forget to turn them off before leaving the seat.



- Discharge chute helps protect you and bystanders from flying debris.



## are designed not to cut it.

- Low-kickback chain and SAFE-T-TIP® Anti-Kickback Nose Guard reduce chance of kickback for better control.



- Inertia chain brake automatically stops the chain as the saw is moving upward during a kickback event.



- Safety interlock system ensures that trigger can be engaged only when hand is in cutting position.

- Vibration isolation reduces operator fatigue.





# Ride-on Equipment

## Steer clear from danger.

- Be sure the area is clear of bystanders before operating. Stop the machine if anyone enters the area.

- Do not mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while backing.



- Data indicates operators age 60 years and above are involved in a large percentage of riding mower related injuries. These operators should evaluate their

ability to operate the riding mower safely enough to protect themselves and others from serious injury.

- Never operate with the discharge deflector raised, removed, or altered, unless using a grass catcher.



- To avoid tipping, slow down on sharp turns. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches, embankments, or bodies of water.
- For proper traction and optimum performance, mow when the grass is dry.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for wheel weights and counterweights.



- Before dismounting: stop the engine, lock the park brake, remove the ignition key, and make sure the engine and moving parts have stopped. For tractors with implements, also lower implements to the ground and relieve any built-up pressure.





# Walk-Behind Mowers

## Striding along safely.



- Stop the engine before adjusting the cutting height.
- Mow in daylight and wait until the grass is dry to begin, this will give you better traction.

- Protect against thrown objects. Keep the discharge chute, bagger, or mulch plug in place at all times.



- If you are using a bagger, wait until the engine stops before removing



the bag. The bag is subject to wear and deterioration; check the bag frequently and replace when necessary.

- Mow across the slope of gentle hillsides with a walk-behind mower, not up and down.
- Avoid situations that require you to pull the lawn mower backwards—this will lessen the chance of injury to your feet.





# Line Trimmers

## Don't cut yourself short.

- Use your line trimmer only for weeds and grass—it's not designed to trim shrubbery, climbing ivy, or other greenery not at ground level.
- Keep firm footing and balance, and don't overreach when trimming.
- Move the trimmer in a sweeping motion away from your body. And always keep safety shields in place.
- Keep your body away from the rotating string head and hot surfaces.
- Always keep string head below waist level.
- Make sure lighting conditions are adequate.
- Position the muffler side of the engine away from your body to avoid burning your arm.







## Hedge Trimmers

### Never hedge on safety.

- When operating your hedge trimmer, keep both feet firmly on the ground and spread slightly apart. Firm footing is very important for safe operation.
- Do not lean or stretch over the work area while operating your hedge trimmer—you may lose balance.
- Keep your fingers away from the hedge trimmer blades. Do not reach over or near the blades to clear away clippings while the engine is running.
- Always hold the hedge trimmer firmly with both hands while operating.
- Do not operate the trimmer from a ladder or any other unstable position.
- Make sure lighting conditions are adequate.





## Chain Saws

### Cut down your risk.

- Carefully read your operator's manual to learn about, and guard against, kickback—the most dangerous chain saw reaction.
- Do not let the nose of the guidebar contact a log, branch, fence, or any other obstruction that could be hit while you are operating a saw.



- Avoid the danger of chain saw kickback by using a saw equipped with an anti-kickback device mounted on the tip of the guidebar.
- Do not operate a chain saw with one hand. Keep a good, firm grip on the saw with both hands when the engine is running. A firm grip (thumbs and fingers encircling the chain saw handles), together with a stiff left arm, will help reduce kickback and maintain control of the saw.
- Never start cutting with a chain saw until you have a clear work area, secure footing, and a planned retreat path from the falling tree.

- Be sure that the saw's chain stops moving when the throttle control is released.

- Always cut with the engine running at full speed. Fully squeeze the throttle trigger and maintain a steady cutting speed.



- When cutting a tree limb that is under tension, be alert for springback so you will not be struck when the tension in the wood fiber is released.

- Do not operate a chain saw in a tree or from a ladder, this is extremely dangerous. Do not overreach or cut above chest height.



JOHN DEERE