

LSU University Safety Manual
Section IV, Part O - Grounds Maintenance

- i. Equipment with fuel in the tank shall not be stored inside a building where vapors could reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- j. Never run an engine indoors.

3. Lawn Trimmers

- a. Edgers and trimmers shall be treated with the same caution as mowers because they, too,

- d. Rotary blades can also pick up stones, pieces of wire, nails, or other objects hiding in the grass, and throw them out of the discharge chute at high speeds. Guards shall be in place every time the catcher is not used.
- e. The operator shall shut off the engine and make certain that the blade has stopped completely before taking off the grass catcher to empty it, attempting to free obstructions from the discharge chute, adjusting the cutting height or performing any operation requiring him/her to put his/her hands or feet near the blade.

5. Riding Mowers

Suggested safe practices for riding mowers include the following:

- a. The operator shall be fully instructed in handling riding mowers. He/she shall know the equipment especially at the beginning of each mowing season.
- b. The work area shall be cleared of objects that might be picked up and thrown. Fixed objects that might damage the mower shall be identified. All areas cannot be reached by a riding mower; some corners or sharp slopes will have to be mowed by a power mower. When planning landscaping, leave enough space around new plantings for easy mower access and allow for future growth.
- c. Disengage all attachment clutches and shift into neutral before attempting to start the engine (motor). Disengage power to attachments and stop the engine before making any repairs or adjustments. Disengage the power to attachments when transporting them or when they are not in use. All possible precautions shall be taken when leaving the vehicle unattended such as disengaging the power takeoff, lowering the attachments, shifting into neutral, setting the parking brake, stopping the engine, and removing the ignition key.
- d. When mowing, the operator shall stay alert for holes in the terrain and for other hidden hazards. Do not start or stop suddenly when going uphill or downhill. Mow up and down the face of steep slopes; never mow across as the wheelbase is longer than the thread so the unit is more stable that way.
- e. Reduce speed on slopes and on sharp turns to prevent tipping or loss of control. Extreme caution shall be used when changing direction, especially on slopes. Do not back up without looking to make certain it is safe to do so. Watch for traffic when crossing or near roadways. When using attachments, direct discharge of materials away from anything that could be hurt or damaged by it.
- f. Maintain vehicle and attachments in good operating condition and keep safety devices in place. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight, and make sure the equipment is in safe working condition; check especially blade mounting bolts. If the vehicle or its attachments strike a solid object, stop and inspect for damage; the damage shall be repaired before

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- a. Garden tractors shall have safeguards for all moving parts to reduce the hazard of contacting belts, chains, pulleys, and gears.
- b. Garden tractors shall have a throttle, gears, and brakes that are accessible and can be operated smoothly with minimum effort.
- c. Safety instructions shall be provided with the garden tractor. There shall be warning labels on the machine itself.
- d. V j g"qr gtcvqt"u j c m n"tg c f"v j g"q y p g t o u" o c p w c n" c p f"u j c m n"t g t g c f" k v u"t g e q o o g p f c v k q p u" d g h q t g" each use of the garden tractor.
- e. Never allow children or unauthorized persons to operate the tractor and keep them away from these areas during operation.
- f. The operator shall wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes, and close-fitting slacks and shirts to avoid entanglement in the moving parts. He/she shall never operate a garden tractor in bare feet, sandals, or sneakers.
- g. The machine shall be turned off and the spark plug wire disconnected when the machine is to be adjusted.
- h. The operator shall always drive up and down the slopes rather than across when using a garden tractor on a hill for greater stability. (This instruction is different than that for power lawn-mowers.)
- i. Garden tractors shall be started outdoors, not in a garage where carbon monoxide gas can collect.
- j. No smoking shall be allowed near the garden tractor or gasoline storage can.
- k. Unauthorized persons shall be kept away from the machines and the fuel.
- l. All loose or broken parts, especially blades shall be tightened or replaced.
- m. Get expert servicing regularly; it may prevent serious injuries.
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7. Pesticides

Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, disinfectants, rodenticides, and animal repellents are all pesticides. The safe use q h" r g u v k e k f g u" k u" g x g t { q p g o u" t g u r q p u k d k n k v { 0" V j g" w u g t. " j q y g x g t. " j c u" v j g" major responsibility which begins the day a pesticide is selected and purchased and continues until the empty container has been disposed of properly.

All labels shall include a list of what the product will control, directions on how to apply the pesticide, a warning of potential hazards, and a n a l y. V L P 3 D V V 6 W D w a e 6 (t) - 4 (c) - 5 (o 6 1 7 0 1) 5 (s) 6 (t) r n B T / F 1 8 5

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- a. Application: Any restricted-use pesticide used around a plant shall be applied by a certified handler according to law (Public Law 92.516).
- b. The least toxic pesticide shall be used for the job in order to reduce hazards.
- c. Only enough pesticide to last one season shall be purchased. This cuts down on storage and disposal problems. The following precautions shall be observed:
 - i. Use pesticide poisons only for the purposes stated on the label.
 - ii. Keep pesticide poisons in the original labeled container. Check for leaks or container damage.
 - iii. Mix pesticide poisons carefully (outdoors if possible), keep off skin, and avoid breathing dust or vapors. Use protective clothing and equipment including respirators
 - iv. Set aside a special set of mixing tools (measuring spoons and a graduated measuring cup) for use with sprays and dusts only. Keep them with the chemicals.
 - v. Avoid spilling. Set aside a level shelf or bench in a well-ventilated area, preferably outside, for mixing chemicals. A level, uncluttered surface helps avoid spills. If

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If an emergency occurs, additional advice and information on antidotes for specific pesticides may be obtained from the Student Health Center or a local hospital. Telephone numbers shall be conspicuously posted.

8. Poison Ivy and Poison Oak