Mower Safety

**Do . . . . ✓**

✓ Keep cylinder fins and governor parts free of grass and other debris as this can affect engine speed and clog the air cooling system. Continued operation with a clogged cooling system can cause severe overheating and possible engine damage.
✓ Pull starter cord slowly until resistance is felt. Then pull cord rapidly to avoid kickback and prevent hand or arm injury. Kick back is also the result of a loose blade or partially sheared flywheel key.
✓ Use clean, fresh, lead-free gasoline. This will result in fewer combustion deposits and longer valve life. Purchase fuel in quantity that can be used within 30 days, or use Briggs & Stratton Gasoline Additive #5041 to assure fuel freshness and volatility during prolonged storage.

**Do Not . . . . X**

X Run engine in an enclosed area. Exhaust gasses contain carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly poison.
X Check for spark with spark plug or spark plug wire removed. Use an approved tester.
X Crank engine with spark plug removed. If engine is flooded, place throttle in "Fast" position and crank until engine starts.
X Crank engine more than 15 seconds without allowing starter motor to cool for two minutes.
X Smoke when filling fuel tank.
X Fill fuel tank while engine is running. Allow engine to cool for two minutes before refueling.
X Operate engine when an odor of gasoline is present or other explosive conditions exist.
X Operate engine if gasoline is spilled. Move machine away from spill and avoid creating any ignition until the gasoline has evaporated.
X Store, spill or use gasoline near an open flame, or devices such as a stove, furnace, or water heater which utilize a pilot light or devices which creates a spark.
X Operate engine without a muffler. Inspect periodically and replace if defective.
X Operate engine with an accumulation of grass, leaves, dirt or other combustible material in the muffler area.
X Place hands or feet near moving or rotating parts.
X Run engine at excessive speeds.
X Tamper with Governor springs, governor links or other parts which may increase the governed engine speed.

* Reprinted from the Florida Turf Digest

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