

TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR CHAIN SAW

For many people, winter's onset means that it's time to lay in a supply of firewood. Others will take advantage of the slow season to clear away unwanted brush and dead trees. Whatever the reason, it's time to get your chain saw running right.

If yours doesn't sound quite right, or if it isn't cutting properly, the problem might be a simple one that you could correct easily. Check in your owner's manual for a troubleshooting guide which correlates symptoms with possible mechanical problems and corrections. If your manual is lost, refer to this guide prepared by the John Deere Company, Moline, Ill.

1) Poor cutting. First, check the chain. It may be dull or have been improperly sharpened. Also, while wearing gloves, check the chain tension by lifting the chain at the center of the guidebar until the bar itself lifts up. The bottom of the drive lug should be flush with the top of the guide bar. Is the guide bar damaged? Is the chain installed backward? Always put the chain on the guide bar so that the top cutting edges face the nose of the bar.

If the chain and guide bar check out, then the problem may be in the power supply. Check for dirt in the exhaust ports and muffler, and look for a dirty fuel filter. Finally, adjust the carburetor.

2) Oiler not working. Maybe it's simply out of oil, or the oil supply hole is plugged. See if the oil strainer is dirty. Perhaps the vent in the oil tank cap is plugged. Be sure the oiler is adjusted correctly.

3) Engine won't start. Read the operator's manual or call a dealer to check the proper starting procedure. It could be out of gas or simply flooded. If the sparkplug is fouled, replace it. Check the carburetor adjustment.

4) Engine dies or accelerates poorly. This problem can be caused by a fouled spark plug, a dirty air cleaner, or plugged vent on the fuel tank cap. Maybe the saw simply ran out of gas. The carburetor could be adjusted incorrectly.

If you check the problems listed here and the symptoms persist, take the chain saw to a dealer who offers repair service.

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GCSAA NEWS

GCSAA's annual membership meeting, including election of officers for the 1981 term will be at 2:00 p.m., January 28 in Anaheim. The following slate of candidates has been nominated.

PRESIDENT: Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, Inverness G.C., Palatine, Ill.

VICE-PRESIDENT: David C. Holler, CGCS, Riviera C.C., Coral Gables, Florida
James A. Wyllie, CGCS, Bayview C.C., Thornhill, Ont.

DIRECTOR: Eugene D. Baston, CGCS, Birmingham (Ala.) Country Club
Riley L. Stottern, CGCS, Jeremy Ranch C.C., Salt Lake City, Utah
Cary L. Tegtmeyer, CGCS, Topeka (Kan.) Country Club
Robert R. Wilson, Oak Hills C.C., San Antonio, Texas