

MECHANIC'S CORNER

ENGINE SURVIVAL IN THE SUMMER SUN

The August sunshine presents some real "health" problems for the air-cooled engine. Some special attention to maintenance during hot weather can help avoid engine "sunstroke."

Heat and dirt are the major causes of air-cooled engine failure. Warm air is less effective in engine cooling than cooler air. Therefore, when ambient temperatures are high, it is important that as much air as possible get to the fins on the cylinder and head.

The shrouds that direct the cooling air must be in place and the grass screen over the flywheel must be kept open. Also, the fins on the cylinder and cylinder head must be kept clean. This will be more difficult in the hot and dry summer months because grass clippings will be dryer, lighter, and drawn in with the cooling air more easily.

Engine oil also keeps engines cool in two ways. Its lubricating property reduces heat from friction and the oil also serves as a heat sink. High quality engine oil with an API rating of SC, SD, SE, or SF and the viscosity rating of SAE 30 is recommended for hot weather operation. Check the engine oil level before each engine operation and every five hours thereafter. Keep the level at the full mark, but don't overfill.

Dirt destroys engines and in hot and dry weather there is much more dust and dirt in the air. It is critical that the air cleaner be given more frequent attention. Wash oiled foam air cleaners in detergent and water, rinse, and dry. Re-oil with a generous amount of the same oil as is used in the engine crankcase. Paper elements should be cleaned by tapping on a clean surface. Don't use compressed air to clean paper element air cleaners since a hole could be blown in the filter. If tapping won't clean it, replace it with a genuine replacement filter supplied by the engine manufacturer.

Air cleaners that combine a paper element and an oil soaked sponge are particularly effective and are available for most air-cooled engines.

Attention to air cleaners, oil, and cooling systems is inexpensive and takes little time but will pay big dividends in avoiding engine "sunstroke."

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Due to dust, seeds, grass clippings, etc. attention to air cleaners is particularly important in summer months.

Scientific Guide To Pest Control Operations

by **Dr. L.C. Truman**
Dr. G.W. Bennett and
Dr. W.L. Butts



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