

# Due North Gardens – Safety Operating Procedures

## WALK BEHIND MOWER

**DO NOT use this machine unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation and have been given permission**

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



### PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls.
- ✓ Ensure mower is clean.
- ✓ Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional. Do not operate if guards are missing or faulty.
- ✓ Ensure cutting blades are sharp, secure and in good condition.
- ✓ Check for any loose, broken, missing or damaged parts. Replace as needed.

### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Clear the area to be mowed of debris that may be thrown.
- ✓ Watch for ejected material. Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating equipment.
- ✓ Avoid mowing in wet conditions due to lack of traction.
- ✓ Maintain a proper balance and secure footing.
- ✓ Keep clear of moving machine parts.
- ✓ Operate at a speed slow enough to keep control over unexpected hazards.
- ✓ Mow in a forward direction.
- ✓ When mowing on a slope, mow across the slope. This keeps a better distance between you and the mower in case of a slip.
- ✓ Allow the mower to cool before refuelling.

### ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ Turn off the fuel supply when work completed.
- ✓ Remove any foreign material from in and around engine and catcher parts.
- ✓ Before adjusting or clearing grass clogs, shut off the mower, remove the spark plug lead and allow it to come to a complete standstill.
- ✓ Keep the work area and implement shed in a safe, clean and tidy condition.

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- ⓘ Noise.
- ⓘ Rapidly rotating cutting blades.
- ⓘ Ejected material and flying debris.

### DON'T

- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Report suspect machinery immediately.
- ✗ Never leave the machine running unattended.

**This SOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with this equipment and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed as a guide to be used to compliment training and as a reminder to users prior to equipment use.**