

# Due North Gardens – Safety Operating Procedures

## EDGER – PETROL OPERATED

**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.
- ✓ Check for loose/missing nuts, bolts and screws. Tighten and/or replace as needed.
- ✓ Inspect fuel lines, tank and area around carburetor for fuel leaks. Do not operate if leaks are found.
- ✓ Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional. Do not operate if guards are missing or faulty.
- ✓ Check that the cutting attachment is firmly attached and in safe operating condition.
- ✓ Check that the front handle is adjusted for safe, comfortable operation.

### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating equipment.
- ✓ When starting:
  - Lay the unit on a flat area and keep movable attachment parts clear of all obstacles.
  - Firmly grasp right hand grip with left hand.
- ✓ Before edging, plan your direction of travel so the unit will always be positioned on your right side and so you walk on a hard surface whenever possible.
- ✓ Hold the front and center or rear and center handles with both hands, with thumbs and fingers tightly encircling the handles.
- ✓ Maintain a proper balance and secure footing. Do not work on slippery, uneven or unstable surfaces.
- ✓ Adjust the blade's depth of cut to produce a fine cut between edging and grass using a minimum blade depth, usually with about 13 mm of the blade into the ground.
- ✓ When starting to edge, run the engine at full throttle, and lower the blade gently into the ground, being careful not to hit the concrete with the blade.
- ✓ Blade depth may have to be adjusted due to differences in height between the hard surface and the top of the grass.

- ✓ Shut down immediately if the unit starts to shake or vibrate.
- ✓ Disconnect spark plug wire before you work on the unit or leave it unattended.
- ✓ Allow the unit to cool before refuelling. Exercise extreme care to avoid spilling fuel onto hot motor or exhaust.

### ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ After shutting down the engine, keep fingers and feet away from the cutting blade until all rotation stops.
- ✓ Remove any foreign material from in and around the motor, blades and guards.
- ✓ Keep the work area and implement shed in a safe, clean and tidy condition.

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INJURIES

- ⓘ Moving components.
- ⓘ Ejected material.
- ⓘ Vibration.
- ⓘ Noise.
- ⓘ Hair/clothing getting caught in moving machine parts.
- ⓘ Burns from exhaust.

### DON'T

- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Report suspect machinery immediately.
- ✗ Do not adjust the blade height with the engine running.
- ✗ Don't force the blade. Move as quickly as the blade will allow.

**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 complement training and as a reminder to users prior to equipment use.**