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| **Department:** | **PRC** | **Area:** | **Horticulture**  |  |
| **Subject:** | **Grass Trimmer SWP** |

**Grass Trimmer SWP**

**Warning:**

**The use of this tool may be hazardous. Safety precautions must be observed to reduce the risk of personal injury. It is important to fully understand and observe the following safety precautions and procedures. If not familiar with the use of this equipment refer to the user manual and obtain practical instruction from a competent operator or supervisor. Do not operate without thorough training or unless under the direct supervision of an instructor. Do not operate if guard is missing or not working appropriately.**

**Background:**

The grass trimmer is a high speed cutting tool used in cutting grass. It can also be used to cut blackberry and other brush when equipped with a brush cutting blade.

**Hazards:**

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| * Cuts / abrasions
 | * Hearing loss
 | * Eye damage
 | * Vibration
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| * Severe cuts or amputations when using the brush blade
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**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required:**

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| * Hearing protection
 | * Eye protection
 | * Safety footwear
 | * Long pants
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| * Gloves (Anti-Vibration gloves are recommended for larger jobs or continual use throughout shift)
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**Pre Set-Up:**

* Check fuel level.
* Check that guard is attached and in good condition.
* Ensure there is enough line on the head.
* Pull line out until it just touches the guard cutting blade.
* Slide ignition to ON position.
* Squeeze throttle and lock with throttle lock lever.
* Press primer bulb a few times.
* Set choke to closed position.
* Hold trimmer firmly with one hand and pull starter cord with the other hand.
* Once started move the choke to the open position and disengage trigger lock.

**Procedure:**

* Operate trimmer with two hands at all times.
* Be aware of public and co-workers when operating.
* Use a right to left sweeping motion to cut grass and brush and remove it from your path.
* Cut grass with only the leading edge of the trimmer line.
* Use caution when trimming to avoid hitting the ground or small objects that might fly back and hit the operator or someone else.
* Maintain good balance and secure footing.
* Do not run trimmer close to trees where the string might damage them.
* Use extra caution when edging.
* To adjust trimmer line length, turn off trimmer and pull bottom of head while rotating it counter-clockwise.
* Power down trimmer to remove grass and debris from around cutting head.
* Operate with mouth closed to minimize risk of ingestion of animal feces or damage to teeth from debris.
* Never operate the cutting attachment above waist height.

**Post Procedure/Take Down:**

* Shut down trimmer and remove grass and debris from around cutting head.
* Restring trimmer line if the head is low.
* If refuelling is necessary, allow engine to cool before refuelling.

**Summary:**

* Wear all PPE
* Watch for flying debris hitting operator or bystanders.
* Maintain good balance at all times.
* Ensure string is set to proper cutting length for efficient operation at all times.

**Please contact Jason Duchak @250.755.4411 if you have any questions regarding what is expected for the procedure or for clarification.**

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| **Created: July 21, 2010****Revised: February 10, 2011**  | **Created by: Tony Clift** **Approved by: Jesse Tranberg**  |