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OWNER'S MANUAL

STARTING SERIAL #: 1205-057001

MODEL NO.

WB11524



Read and follow all Safety Rules and Instructions before operating this equipment.

Rev 05-200



THE PREDATOR **24" ROUGH CUT** **WALK BEHIND CUTTER**

Operation
Service and Adjustment
Repair Parts



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Manufacturing quality lawn care equipment since 1945

Made In The

USA

Thank you for choosing Swisher's 24" Rough Cut Walk Behind Cutter. Before operating your cutter, please read, understand and follow all of the safety precautions and other instructions explained in this manual. As with all power equipment, lawnmowers can be potentially dangerous if not properly used.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



This Safety Alert Symbol indicates important messages in this manual. When you see this symbol, carefully read the message that follows and be alert to the possibility of personal injury.

Read this manual completely. This machine can amputate hands and feet, and throw objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

- Read the manual. Learn to operate this machine safely.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug, to prevent accidental starting the engine when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs.
- Keep all shields and guards in place.
- Understand the speed, steering and stability of this machine. Know the positions and operations of all controls before you operate this machine. Check all of the controls in a safe area before starting to work with this machine.
- Allow only responsible adults who are familiar with these instructions to operate this machine. **Never allow children to operate this machine.**
- Clear the area of objects such as rocks, toys, wire, etc. that can be picked up and thrown by the blade.
- Be sure the area is clear of other people before mowing. Be aware of the mower discharge direction and do not point at anyone. **Stop the machine** if anyone enters the mowing area. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. **Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.** Keep children under the watchful care of another responsible adult.
- **No riders!**
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Do not mow in reverse. **Always look down and behind before and during backing.**

- Turn off the blade when not mowing. Before leaving the machine, turn off the blade and stop the engine.
- Watch for traffic when operating near or crossing roadways.
- Do not operate the mower if it has been dropped or damaged in any manner or if the mower vibrates excessively. Excessive vibration is an indication of damage. Repair mower as necessary.
- Dress properly. Do not operate the mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Wear only solid shoes with good traction when mowing.
- Never allow operation by untrained persons.
- Do not operate the machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not operate on slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- Stop and inspect the equipment if you strike an object. Repair, if necessary, before restarting. Never make adjustments or repairs with the engine running.
- Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blades or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them. Do not operate at too fast a rate.

PRE-OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- Disengage spark plug wire and place where it cannot make a connection.
- Check engine oil. All engines are filled with oil at the factory. Verify oil level and add if necessary before starting engine. (See Engine Owner's Manual)
- Verify fuel level and add if necessary before starting engine.
- Reconnect spark plug wire.
- (Refer to Owner's Manual pp. 5-7) For proper operating procedures.



OPERATING YOUR NEW CUTTER



The operation of any mower can produce foreign objects to be thrown into the eyes, resulting in severe eye damage. Always wear certified safety glasses or wide-vision safety goggles over spectacles before starting any cutting machine and while operating such a machine.



The operation of any cutter produces sound waves that are damaging to the human ear. Ear protection is recommended.



CAUTION!

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. *Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.*

INTENDED USE

This is not a lawn mower. The Predator is designed for cutting overgrown brush, weeds, and other types of organic growth. This unit is capable of clearing small saplings of 1-1/2" in diameter or less.

PROPULSION

The Predator is self-propelled, and is controlled by a "GROUND CONTROL" lever. To engage the drive, put the transaxle in a gear and activate the left lever. Releasing the lever will disengage the self-propel.

Under most conditions cutting should be done in a low gear (1st or 2nd). Upper gears should be used for conditions where weeds and brush are thinned out or not as tall. In confined areas the machine can be pushed forwards or backwards by releasing the "GROUND CONTROL" lever, placing the transaxle in neutral, and pushing the machine.

TRAVEL SPEED

Can be varied by choosing a higher or lower gear using the gearshift lever at the rear of the machine or by changing the engine speed with the engine throttle. Do not adjust speed with the blade engaged. To shift the cutter into reverse, release "GROUND CONTROL" lever, disengage blade, and rotate the shift lever to the left. When the lever stops, lift up the reverse lockout latch and continue to move the shift lever to the left until it stops again. **The Predator is equipped with a safety control that will kill the engine if the blade is engaged while cutter is in the "reverse" gear.**

ENGAGING BLADE

An "OPERATOR PRESENCE" lever and a "BLADE ENGAGE DRIVE" control work together to engage the Predator's blade. Both devices must be activated before the blade will work. Releasing the "OPERATOR PRESENCE" lever will disengage both the blade and the "BLADE ENGAGE DRIVE" control.

STARTING THE ENGINE

See engine manufacturer's recommendations for the type and amount of oil and fuel used. Engine must be level to accurately check and fill oil. Do not overfill.

- Make sure unit is level, blade is disengaged, and transaxle in "NEUTRAL"
- Check spark plug wire, oil level, and fuel level.
- Check all electrical connections for build-up of debris.
- If needed set "CHOKE" to "CHOKE" position.
- Set engine throttle control to ½ throttle position.
- Pull rope with a single fluid motion.
- After engine has started set "CHOKE" to "RUN" position.

STOPPING

- Bring cutter to a complete stop.
- Disengage mower blade.
- Reduce engine idle speed, and allow engine to run momentarily for cooling.
- Place transaxle in the "NEUTRAL" position.
- Move engine throttle control to off position.

BEGIN CUTTING

- Make sure area is clear of all bystanders.
- Make sure that all guards, belt guides, and the spark plug wire are properly attached.
- Start engine, set engine throttle control at maximum engine idle speed for best results.
- Allow engine to run a few moments and Slowly, engage blade.
- Move transaxle into low gear and activate "GROUND CONTROL" lever.
- Turning is done by rotating the handles left or right. This machine has significant weight and may take more effort to turn than one may expect. Turning could take practice.

BACKING UP

- Disengage blade.
- Check behind you for safety.
- Move transaxle into "REVERSE" position.
- Activate "GROUND CONTROL" lever.

SUGGESTED PRACTICES

- Always operate engine at full throttle when cutting to assure the best cutting performance and proper discharge of material.
- If grass is wet, allow it to dry. Wet grass clumps will collect on the bottom of the deck.
- Go slow when cutting dense areas. Some dense areas may need to be gone over twice. Better results occur if the second cut is 90 degrees to the first cut.

BEFORE EACH USE

- Check engine oil level. (Do this twice to ensure an accurate reading.)
- Check condition of air filter and clean or replace if necessary.
- Check blade operation.
- Check for loose fasteners.