SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

General use

The object of this manual is to help you use your BlueBird machine safely and to give you information about how to maintain your machine. Please read the manual carefully before attempting to use the machine.

If after reading the operator's manual you are still unsure about the safety risks associated with use of the machine, you should not use the machine. Please contact your dealer for more information.

These safety instructions only address the basics for safe use. It would be impossible in the safety instructions to describe all possible risk situations that could arise when using the machine. You can, however, prevent accidents by always using common sense.

To obtain extra copies of the operator's manual, please contact your dealer.

WARNING!

Under no circumstances may the original design of the machine be modified without written approval from the manufacturer. Such modifications not only affect the performance and durability of the machine but may even pose a safety risk for users and those in the vicinity. Unauthorized modifications to the design of the machine may absolve the manufacturer from liability for any resulting personal injury or property damage. Modifying the machine without written approval from the manufacturer may void the guarantee.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do not use the machine until you have read the operator's manual carefully and understand the instructions given. All maintenance work or adjustments not described in this manual must be performed by an authorized BlueBird service workshop.

- Read this manual carefully and make sure you understand it before using the machine or performing any maintenance. If the user cannot read this manual, it is the responsibility of the machine owner to explain the contents to the user.
- Follow all safety instructions. Failure to do so may result in injury to yourself or others.
- Accident prevention regulations, other general safety regulations, occupational safety rules and traffic regulations must be followed without fail.
- All users shall be trained in use of the machine. The owner is responsible for training users.
- Engage an authorized BlueBird workshop for all service and repairs not described in this manual.

- BlueBird original spare parts are designed and specified to maintain high quality and correct fit for optimal durability and lifespan. From a safety point of view, you should only use BlueBird original spare parts.
- Check that all safety decals are in place. See the chapter "Symbols and Decals".
- Learn how to use the machine and its controls safely and learn to recognize the safety decals.
- Only use the machine for sowing and de-thatching lawns. It is not intended for any other use.
- Check that the machine is in serviceable condition prior to use; see the chapter "Maintenance/Maintenance schedule".
- Only use the machine in daylight or in other well-lit conditions. Keep the machine a safe distance from holes or other irregularities in the ground. Pay attention to other possible risks.
- Only allow the machine to be used by adults who are familiar with its use.
SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Never allow children or persons not trained in the use of the machine to use or service it. Local laws may regulate the age of the user.

- People and animals can distract you causing you to lose control of the machine. For this reason, you should always concentrate and focus on the task at hand.

- Never leave the machine unsupervised with the engine running.

- Make sure that other people are nearby when you are using the machine so that you can call for help should an emergency arise.

- The machine is tested and approved only with the equipment originally provided or recommended by the manufacturer.

Preparations

- Make sure that you always have first aid equipment at hand when using the machine.

- Make sure nobody else is in the vicinity of the machine when you start the engine, engage the drive or run the machine.

- Make sure animals and people maintain a safe distance from the machine.

- Clear the area of objects such as stones, toys, steel wire, etc. that could become caught in moving machine parts and thrown out.

- Find and locate all fixed objects in the ground, such as sprinkler systems, poles, water valves, bases for washing lines, etc. Be certain to check for hidden electrical cables or similar in the surface of the lawn. Always run the machine around these objects. Never intentionally run the machine over foreign objects.

- Make sure all guard plates and protective shields are in place and intact when using the machine.

- Makes sure no clothing, long hair or jewelry can catch in moving machine parts.

- Never use the machine when barefoot. Always wear protective shoes or protective boots with anti-slip and preferably with steel toes.

- Wear approved ear-protection when running the machine. Ask your dealer about approved ear-protection.

- WARNING!
  The engine can become very hot. To avoid being burned, you must turn off the engine and wait until all parts have cooled before touching the engine.

- WARNING!
  Overexposure to vibration may lead to circulatory or nerve damage, particularly in people who have impaired circulation. Contact your doctor if you experience symptoms that could have been caused by overexposure to vibration. Examples of common symptoms include numbness, pain, muscle weakness, change of skin color or an uncomfortable feeling of tingling. These symptoms appear most frequently in the fingers, hands or wrists.

- WARNING!
  Always use approved protective clothing and approved protective equipment when using the machine. Protective clothing and protective equipment cannot eliminate the risk of accidents, but wearing proper clothing and the correct equipment will reduce the degree of injury should an accident occur. Ask your dealer about approved protective clothing and approved protective equipment recommended by BlueBird.
SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Operating

• Do not use the machine on grades of more than 20°. We recommend working across slopes rather than up and down. This will yield a more even result. Do not leave the machine standing on a slope unattended.

• Do not use the machine if you are tired, if you have consumed alcohol, or if you are taking other drugs or medication that can affect your vision, judgment or co-ordination.

• Never use the machine indoors or in spaces lacking proper ventilation.

• Do not use the machine on any surface other than grass.

• Make sure you have a proper foothold when using the machine, particularly when backing. Walk, don’t run. Never work on wet grass. Poor traction may cause you to slip.

• Keep your hands and feet away from moving parts.

• Keep your hands and feet away from the work tools.

• Slow down and be especially careful on slopes. Make sure to run the machine in the recommended direction on slopes. Be careful when working close to sudden changes in level.

• Smoking, open flames or sparks in the vicinity of the machine are strictly forbidden. Gasoline is extremely flammable and carelessness in handling can result in personal injury or fire.

• Stop and inspect the equipment if you run over or into anything. If necessary, make repairs before beginning again.

• Whatever happens, you should always park the machine on even ground, disengage the drive, turn off the engine and wait until all moving parts have stopped before leaving the operating position behind the machine.

Movement/Transport

• To turn and steer the machine, press down on the handle and turn on the back wheels.

• Turn off the engine and allow it to cool at least 2 minutes before transport.

• Collapse the handle if the machine is equipped with a collapsible handle.

• Be careful and use safe lifting and moving techniques when loading/unloading the machine.

• We recommend having two people to lift the machine.

• Fasten the machine properly in place with approved fasteners, such as tension belts, chains or rope. Always check that you are in compliance with applicable traffic regulations before transporting the machine.

Storage

• Allow the engine to cool before storing the machine. Never store the machine near an open flame.

• Store the machine with the fuel valve closed.

• Store the machine and fuel in such a way that there is no risk that leaking fuel or fumes can come in contact with flames or sparks from electrical machines, electric engines, relays, switches, boilers or similar.

• Store the machine in a locked space away from children and adults untrained in use of the machine.

WARNING!

Engine exhaust, some of its constituents and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals considered to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. The engine emits carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, poisonous gas. Do not use the machine in enclosed spaces.
SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Children

Serious accidents can occur if you fail to be on guard for children in the vicinity of the machine. Never assume that children will stay put where you last saw them.

- Keep children away from the machine.
- Keep children away from the work area and under close supervision by another adult.
- Keep an eye out and shut off the machine if children enter the work area.
- Never allow children to operate the machine.
- Be particularly careful near corners, bushes, trees or other objects that block your view.

Fuel system

![Close the fuel valve.]

- Check the fuel level before each use and leave space for the fuel to expand, because the heat from the engine and the sun can otherwise cause the fuel to expand and overflow.
- Avoid overfilling. If you spill gasoline on the machine, wipe up the spill and wait until it has evaporated before starting the engine. If you spill gasoline on your clothing, change your clothing.

![WARNING! Gasoline and gasoline fumes are poisonous and extremely flammable. Be especially careful when handling gasoline, as carelessness can result in personal injury or fire.]

- Only store fuel in containers approved for that purpose.
- Never remove the fuel cap and fill the fuel tank when the engine is running.
- Always stop the engine when refueling.
- Do not smoke when filling the gasoline tank and do not pour gasoline in the vicinity of sparks or open flame.
- Never fill the fuel tank indoors.
- Before starting the machine after refueling, it should be moved at least 10 feet (3 M) from the location where it was filled.
- Turn off the fuel supply for storage or transport.
- If leaks arise in the fuel system, the engine must not be started until the problem has been resolved.
Main components and operating instruments

1. Engine
2. Depth lever
3. Knob for collapsible handle
4. Clutch bail
5. Handle
6. Shaft guard
7. Belt shield
CONTROLS

Engine
Refer to your engine manual.

Cutting unit
Depth lever
Use the depth lever to raise and lower the blades between working and transport position. The depth lever has a lock-out bolt that should be left in till the blades wear down. Then move the bolt to another hole to allow the blades to penetrate the soil to a depth of 1/8” to 1/4” with a maximum penetration of a 1/2”. Check your seed bag for the manufacturer’s recommended depth of application.

Clutch
The clutch tightens the drive belt and engages the drive for the blades. When the clutch lever is pressed against the handle, the blades begin to rotate. Hold the clutch tightly when working so that the bolt does not slip.
OPERATION

Before you start

• Mow the lawn 1/2" shorter than normal.
• Allow the lawn to dry. Wet conditions can cause extensive damage to healthy grass.

FLAIL BLADES OR SPRING TINES:

• Flail Blades or Spring Tines: Set blade or tine depth so that the blades or tines just touch on a flat surface such as a sidewalk or driveway.

• Delta Blades: Set blades to penetrate the soil to a depth of 1/8" to 1/4” with a maximum penetration of 1/2". Check your seed bag for the manufacturer’s recommended depth of application.

• Lawns with deep thatch exceeding 3/4” may be best dethatched in two treatments (spring and fall) to avoid major shock to an older lawn.

Starting

• Set the depth lever in working position.
• To engage the clutch in heavy thatch, bear down on the handle and raise the front wheels slightly. Hold the clutch engaged against the handle and carefully lower the machine into the turf.
• Do a small test area at a slow walking pace.
• If the engine speed drops excessively, the depth setting is too deep.
• If the machine pulls forward and bucks roughly, the depth setting is too deep. Check for stones or fixed objects in the lawn.

Finishing

• Remove all extracted thatch from the grass and compost/dispose of properly.
• Other methods for improving your lawn may include aeration and fertilization.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Clear the lawn of any debris.
Clearly mark rocks and other fixed objects.
Be especially sure to check for hidden electrical cables or similar in the surface of the lawn.