

Machine Safety Pt. 1

Creative Roots Landscaping

Overview

**Mowers: Ride on
and Walk behind
Power Rake
Aerators**

**Skid-steer
Excavators
Heavy Duty
Trailers**

Mowers

Walk behind



Be on constant watch for rocks, stick, curb stops, curbs, high and low areas, etc.

- Always ensure that blades are kept sharpened and are secured properly
- Do not mow past someone kneeling down (this applies to all kinds of mowers)



Ride on

Like the walk behind always be aware of what you are cutting/sucking up

- If in a bad situation (machine is jerking/jumping around) or going too fast pull the gear control all the way back and release pressure on steering controls
- Remember to keep a lookout for problem areas as it will be harder to get out of with a large machine

Power Rakes



What is a Power Rake?

- Used to clean up the surface or “dethatch” the lawn to lift and remove dead surface debris or dig deep into the thatch layer during a lawn renovation.
- It uses thick metal tines that spin at high speeds.



Dangers

- Power rakes are known to throw bits and pieces of anything that passes under. So be aware of what is on the lawn ahead
- Ensure the guards are in excellent condition and keep hands out of guarded areas while machine is running
- Only tip the machine AIR FILTER UP with gas line turned off to clean the underside

Aerators

What is an Aerator?

- An aerator is a machine used to “core” lawns in order to decompact and/or provide more air flow to the root zone of turf.
- It is equipped with a rotating water tank drive wheel on the front and a 45 pound metal weight over the back to provide additional weight



Dangers

- This is a very heavy and strong machine. It can make its own path if not handled correctly. Irrigation heads, lighting, fences, house corners, downspouts, etc can be damaged easily.
- These machines pull hard so be prepared as it can strain muscles very quickly.
- Make sure you have a clear path to walk and all irrigation and other possible issues are identified

Skid-steer

What is a skid-steer?

- A skidsteer is a versatile machine used to move soils, plants, equipment and much more
- It uses a hydraulic system and can move heavy items around quickly
- This machine should only be operated by experienced personnel or under supervision



Dangers

- This machine is loud for driver and bystander alike. The driver faces some issues with blind spots so watch out for yourself and for the driver to prevent accidents of all kinds
- Never walk behind a operating skid-steer without making eye contact with the driver first
- If driving do **NOT** attempt to turn carrying weight while the boom is in the air. And be very cautious of all surroundings

Excavators



These are highly versatile machines that come in many sizes and have a wide range of attachments for the job. In our case we only use buckets. There also is a hydraulic blade on the front for pushing soil, machine stability, and lift assist of larger rocks.

- Operators and bystanders both need to keep a close eye on their surroundings.
- There are many blind spots and can be easy to damage or injure without notice
- Underground gas lines, pipes, wires or structures are a must know before digging.. Call or click before you dig



Heavy Duty Trailers

Dump Trailers

- Need a 2 5/16in ball. If hooked up incorrectly the trailer can detach while driving or when dumping the trailer contents
- Always ensure adequate room when lifting the trailer. Trees, power lines, and buildings are easy to hit when not paying attention
- Approaching intersections with heavy loads will take more time and is much harder on the trucks
- Someone trained or in presence of someone licensed with their heavy trailer endorsement should be driving at all times



Flat Deck Trailers

- Approaching intersections with heavy loads will take more time and is much harder on the trucks
- Someone trained or in presence of someone licensed with their heavy trailer endorsement should be driving at all times
- Typically used for carrying machines and large plants/objects
- Deck must be swept clean before embarking on your trip.

PPE and Requirements

1. Eye protection
2. Ear protection
3. Steel-toe boots
4. SPACIAL
AWARENESS
5. Has been taught
proper use of
equipment
6. At least one other
person knows you're
____ using a machine

Hey !



Stay Safe Out There !