

2012

TDA Landscaping Services Inc.

[LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ACADEMY]

This guiding textbook is to provide education in safety and basic knowledge for people interested in working outdoors in the field of property maintenance.



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Introduction

There has been a rise in Canadians paying special attention to their backyards and the appeal of how things look from the outside. It's highly likely as a customer, you are more likely to enter into a store and purchase merchandise if the outside is neater than that of a store that looks messy. In a place of business or even at a home that concept also applies. You are generally happier if things around you are neat and not full of clutter. This is where special attention to keeping a place well maintained comes into play. Maintenance in landscaping is quite important because it renews the appeal of the environment in areas where landscaping has been done. If done correctly, maintaining an area can have great benefits. This includes anywhere from increasing the value of a home/business to increasing the overall happiness of the people who live / work there. With every task in this world, there is a correct way to do things and an incorrect way to do things. Our aim is to properly educate people who show interest in working outdoors. Our goal includes teaching students, working adults, etc the safe way to use various tools / machines used in outdoor maintenance as well as key facts / tips to ensure the growth of a healthy lawn.



LAWN MAINTENANCE SAFETY



There is a use of a variety of different hand and power tools used in landscape and ground maintenance. It is important for the safety of oneself and others around them that people not use tools and performs tasks that they have not been trained to do so. Some of the most significant injuries are usually a result of being struck by the blades of a lawn mower or an object being thrown caused by the spinning blades and even noise induced hearing loss. When working outdoors, you should consider wearing gloves, safety glasses, steel toe safety shoes and other necessary protective gear. Use the safety checklist below to ensure personal safety as well of those around you.

LAWN MOWERS

- Read the owner's manual thoroughly in order to know and understand the functions of the lawn mower and its parts.
- Use safety shoes that cover and protect your feet.
- Remove any debris and obstructions that you might encounter during the mowing of the lawn (keep in mind of any sprinkler heads located in the ground).
- Always start the lawn mower in an open area where carbon monoxide can't collect.
- Do not operate lawn mowers in wet and rainy conditions.
- Make sure all the safety guards are in place and a grass catcher is in place in order to stop objects from being thrown around.
- Never leave a lawn mower running unattended and keep away from children at all times.
- Never smoke when servicing, operating or refueling a lawn mower.
- Mow side to side never up and down a steep hill.
- Turn off the mower when not in use and store in a safe place.



WEED TRIMMERS

- Remove any trash or debris that could potentially become a projectile before beginning to use of the trimmer.
- Make sure the string line is at the proper length as a longer string line is more capable of striking you unexpectedly.
- Wear proper clothing such as long pants, long sleeve shirts, safety glasses, ear plugs, hard boots, etc. before starting to use the trimmer (do not wear loose clothing or jewelry).
- Be aware of any children or by standards and make sure that they are out of the way before you begin to use the trimmer.
- Do not operate weed trimmers in wet conditions or near puddles.
- Turn off the trimmer before attending for to it for inspection, adjusting, cleaning or replacing string.
- Never leave the trimmer running while unattended.
- Do not remove the protective guard or string guides when using trimmer.

LEAF BLOWER

- Beware of any bystanders before using the leaf blower and avoid blowing in the direction of any pedestrians.
- Do not use the blower to clean yourself or anybody else.
- Wear eye protection such as safety glasses and protect the ears with ear plugs.
- Never leave the blower unattended and running.

