

## Lawn Tractor Safety

### Operating a Riding Lawn Mower

- Fill your gasoline tank only when the engine is cold. If you need to refuel before completing a job, turn off the lawn tractor or riding mower and allow the engine to cool.
- Avoid spilling any gasoline during the refilling process, and *never* smoke or light a match around gasoline.
- Before starting your lawn tractor or riding mower, inspect it for loose belts or other damaged components.
- Always start your riding mower or lawn tractor from the operator's seat. Never start the machine while standing beside it.
- Riding mowers and lawn tractors are one-person machines. Operate from the driver's seat only, keeping both feet on the tractor at all times, and never carry any passengers, especially children.
- Take care not to throw a unit into gear accidentally, which could cause it to jerk ahead unexpectedly.
- When operating a riding mower on uneven terrain, use extreme care. Always mow up and down slopes—never across—and avoid sudden starts, stops or turns.
- To prevent tipping, decrease your speed when going down slopes or around sharp corners.
- Maintain a minimum ground speed and make turns wide and gradual.
- Never dismount from or jump off a riding mower or lawn tractor with the engine running. Always observe proper shutdown procedures before dismounting.
- Routinely remove any accumulations of grass, leaves or excessive grease to reduce fire hazard.

#### Review: True or False

- T F 1. You should always fill the gasoline tank when the tractor is hot.
- T F 2. You should only start tractor from the operator's seat.
- T F 3. Accumulations of grass, leaves or excessive grease cause no hazards.
- T F 4. Your friend may ride while you mow.
- T F 5. Never dismount with engine running.