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1628 Safety Guidance
PETROL v:112016

Frank Key PLANT & TOOL HIRE

Hollow Tine Lawn Aerator

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Hollow Tine Lawn Aerator

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. This lawn aerator is designed to remove plugs of top soil to aerate and assist drainage of lawns. Do not use it for any other purpose.
4. The action of this aerator can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. The vibration from this machine may cause discomfort after prolonged use. Check the vibration label on the machine, or ask the hire company.
6. Keep your hands and feet well away from the tines.
7. If you have not used a petrol-driven lawn aerator before, practice on the least important area of your lawn until you are confident that you are not damaging the grass.
8. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 100dB(A); strong boots or shoes giving good foot protection and grip; strong gloves for handling any rubbish in the grass.
9. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. This lawn aerator is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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Using the Lawn Aerator

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and good strong footwear.
2. If your machine is fitted with a core collecting rake or tray make sure it is fitted correctly.
3. Always hold the aerator handle firmly with both hands while working.
4. Keep your hands and feet clear of the blades at all times.
5. Do not operate the aerator on concrete or other hard surfaces – injury or damage may occur.
6. Do not run the engine when moving over paving or hard ground, or when positioning the aerator to start work.
7. Replace any damaged or broken tines to prevent overloading the machine or damaging your lawn.
8. Do not tilt the aerator to expose the tines if they are still rotating – the tines can throw out small stones or other hard objects.
9. While working, keep a lookout for any stones or other objects in your path. Stop and clear them out of the way.
10. Stop the lawn aerator if someone approaches you.
11. Stop the engine before making any adjustments or replacing tines, or before leaving the machine unattended.
12. If debris or rubbish becomes tangled in the tines, stop the engine before clearing from the tines or working on the aerator.
13. Make sure that the machine does not become clogged with dust and debris. Stop the engine if you need to clean the aerator.
14. Always stop the engine before leaving the aerator unattended.
15. Clean the machine at the end of each day, and before you return it to the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

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Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this lawn aerator where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, do not run or test the engine indoors unless you have good ventilation.
3. The lawn aerator may damage pipes, drains or cables laid beneath the surface. Check the areas carefully before starting work.
4. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
5. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep other people at least 10 metres (33 feet) away.
6. Do not use this aerator on lawns where the grass is long. Long grass will be pulled out and could bind the tines. Mow your lawn first.
7. Make sure the lawn you are about to aerate is free of large stones, pieces of wood, lengths of wire, or anything else that may fly out or damage your machine. Wear your gloves to do this.
8. Use a garden fork to check that there is not underlying rock or stone within the chosen tine length.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this aerator. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 100 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. You must wear strong boots or shoes giving good foot protection and grip.
4. You will need strong gloves to handle any rubbish or debris in the grass.
5. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

LAWN AERATOR

1. Check your aerator, including engine, controls, guards and the tines. If anything is found damaged, do not use the lawn aerator – contact the hire company.
2. Your hire company will assist you in selecting the correct tines for your application.
3. If your aerator has a folding handle, unfold it into the operating position, check that the locking handnuts are done up tight. If the handle is adjustable set it to the most comfortable height before locking the handnuts.
4. Always hold the lawn aerator correctly with both hands when working.
5. Make sure you understand all of the controls. Before you start the aerator, you must know how to control and stop it safely.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. Move the machine away from your work area. Spilt petrol will kill the grass.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
7. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe cool place.

STARTING THE ENGINE

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most lawn Aerators. If the hire company has given you special instructions for your aerator, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
2. Check that there is no obstruction, including long grass, under the aerator.
3. Your engine may have a low oil warning system that will prevent the engine starting if the oil level is too low or if the machine is on too great a slope. Check the oil level before you try to start the engine.

STARTING FROM COLD

1. Open the fuel tap. If your machine has a choke, move it to the closed position.
2. Check that the throttle lever is in the START position.
3. If your aerator has an ignition ON/OFF switch, turn it to ON.
4. Hold the machine firmly with your left hand so that it will not move when you pull the starting cord.
5. With your right hand, pull out the starting cord handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine and then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far or the cord may break.
6. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
7. If the engine did not start, check that there is sufficient petrol and that the throttle lever is in the correct position. Pull the starting cord again.
8. In cold weather you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle before starting work.
9. When the engine is warm, open the choke.

STOPPING THE ENGINE

1. Turn the fuel tap off.
2. Close the throttle.
3. Switch the ignition switch to OFF.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

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