



Landscape Services

Safety Standard Operating Procedure

(Revised 3/2023)

Riding Mower Operation

This SSOP provides guidance on the practices established for **Riding Mower Operation**. As with any equipment or tools, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual produced by the manufacturer.

Safety Requirements: Be aware of your surroundings, check for debris, branches, rocks, and pedestrians. Cease operation when pedestrians are present. Check for wet areas to prevent damage to turf.

Safety Hazards: Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, Underground and overhead Utilities, lifting, bending, overhead objects, dust, noise, sharp objects, blind spots, equipment malfunction, tip or rollover, pinch points, hot or cold temperatures, and inclement weather.

PPE Requirements: Gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, closed toe shoe, safety vest, long pants.

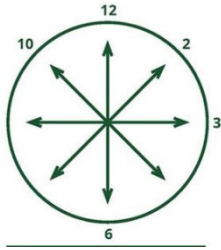
Schedule: Seasonal. Commences in the Spring within the month of March. Activity concludes into the fall and should cease in October.

Daily Inspection

- Check equipment for damage, lose or worn parts.
- Check all fluids.
- Check tire pressure.
 1. Toro 7200/ 7100 rear 15 PSI; front 25 PSI.
 2. Toro 325/ 328 out-front rear 20 PSI; front 25 PSI.
- Grease each zerk.
- Check and ensure that the mower deck is set at the correct cutting height.
- To report equipment for repairs, see **Maintenance Requests**.
- All other precautions, see **Use and Safety Precautions** form received in orientation.

Operation

- Start unit and begin mowing operations.
- After first mowing pass, inspect the previously mowed area to make certain the turfgrass is being mowed adequately.
- **DO NOT** turn mowers on sidewalks. Turning mowers on sidewalks will leave unsightly tire markings.
- Mowing direction will alternate each occurrence.



After Operation

- Blowing off the mower deck can happen within the zone if a backpack blower is present.
- Compressed air is located at the south end of the mower barn.
- Using the compressed air gun or backpack blower, blow off radiator, engine, engine compartment, battery, and any other debris from the unit.
- Riding Mowers are to be power washed once per week in the wash bay.
- Clean air filter.
- Check fuel level.
- Visually inspect the unit for loose or worn parts or any other damage that might have occurred throughout the day and notify any damage to your immediate supervisor.
- Blades will be sharpened every two (2) weeks.
- Blades are sharpened within the **Shop Support Services** work area. No more than one person from the zone is required for this practice unless training a teammate. Use of necessary PPE is required. For instructions, refer to **Use and Safety Precautions** manual.

Maintenance Requests

- Preventative maintenance is scheduled each week. Each Zone has their specific day and time to turn equipment in to Shop Support for service.
- *Equipment Service Request* forms are to be filled out (legibly) and turned in to their immediate Supervisor.
- Forms will list each asset number and provide any necessary remarks.
- This same process is followed for equipment repair requests for damaged or broken parts.

Bermuda Height of Cut (HOC)

- Spring scalp HOC in bermuda lawns will vary from zone to zone and property to property due to terrain. The Spring scalp will assist in the transitioning of the bermuda grass.
- LMZ1-LMZ7 & LMZ9 Spring scalp HOC 1 ¼ "to 2".
- LMZ8 & LMZ10 Spring scalp HOC 2" to 2 ½".
- After initial Spring scalp, blades will be replaced or sharpened.
- Initial HOC will be maintained ¼" higher than scalping HOC.
- HOC through the growing season will be determined by environmental factors and staff will be notified in advance of the upcoming HOC adjustment.
- End of season (late September-early October) HOC will range between 3" to 3 ½".

Fescue Height of Cut (HOC)

- All fescue throughout campus will be maintained at the same HOC.
- Fescue HOC are determined on environmental factors.

- Fescue Spring HOC will initiate at 2 ¾" from March through early May.
- Fescue Summer HOC will increase incrementally through the summer season to a maximum height of 4".
- Incremental increases will be given based on environmental factors.