

Yearning for Yard Work this Summer?

Green lawns, brightly colored flowers and garden-fresh fruits and vegetables - a backyard bonanza in full bloom and the envy of every gardener on the block. While tending your precious plot this summer you must be on guard in the garden.

There are many hazards associated with yard work and gardening. Here are some things to consider.

- ✿ **Think small.** Don't try to tackle more than you can handle.
- ✿ Dress for safety. Wear comfortable well fitting clothing. **No loose garments** or dangling jewelry to tangle with power equipment.
- ✿ **Sturdy, heavy-soled shoes** can protect your feet when you push a spade or if you step on a nail or broken glass. Safety shoes are even better because their metal toecaps can cushion the blow of a heavy object dropped on your foot.
- ✿ Work **gloves** protect your hands from scratches, cuts, blisters and irritations caused by chemicals.
- ✿ **Safety glasses** can protect your eyes from harm when you mow, edge, trim trees, chip patio stones or use chemical sprays or dusts.
- ✿ Pesticides and herbicides can be toxic. Always **stay upwind of the area being sprayed.** Don't smoke or eat until you have washed thoroughly. Read the container label and follow manufacturer recommendations.
- ✿ Garden tools should be well designed, sturdy and kept in good condition with cutting edges sharp. Lubricate rolling equipment for easy pushing. **Use the right tool for the job.** **Improvising or using a tool for other than** its intended purpose increases your mishap potential.
- ✿ Electrical tools like trimmers and edgers can make your work easier, but it's also easier to nip a finger or get into trouble with electricity. Extension cords should be the outdoor, heavy-duty type, never



use an ordinary indoor cord. Ground all power tools unless it is double insulated.

- ✿ Cords should be protected from damage and never yanked on to disconnect them.
- ✿ When a power tool jams or won't start, unplug the power cord before you try to free the jam or find the trouble.

Lawn Cutting Tips

Before beginning your grass cutting chore this summer, take a few moments to review some mowing safety tips.

- ☑ Ensure that cutting equipment is in good operating condition and has the proper machine guards.
- ☑ **Clear area** to be mowed of stones and other debris. These can be ejected with great force through the discharge chute.
- ☑ Wear eye protection (goggles, or safety glasses with side shields or face shield) when operating power mower when there is danger from flying rocks, dirt, etc.
- ☑ Wear appropriate **hearing protection** if equipment has been identified as producing hazardous noise levels or for personal comfort.
- ☑ Ensure your **grass is dry** before you mow. Wet grass is slippery underfoot and can clog both the discharge chute and blades.
- ☑ Never clean, adjust or leave the machine without stopping the motor. Injuries often occur when operators attempt to clean or adjust the machine while the motor is running.
- ☑ Always watch your footing, particularly on slopes. Steer a hand mower **across slopes,** never up and down. Then if the machine gets out of control, you will be out of the way.
- ☑ To protect your feet, always keep the mower flat on the ground. **Never lift, tilt or pull it towards yourself. Never raise the mower to use it to trim the tops of shrubs or hedges.**