Check QR Code for validity

For more information on health and safety in construction go to www.hse.gov.uk/construction/

Redistributed under licence from HAE by Alloa Hire Centre. Document expires on 31/07/2015

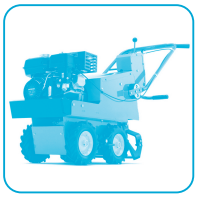
1644 Turf lifter - 4 stroke petrol

AHC TOOLS HIRE/SALES/SERVICE

Turf Lifter

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 Turf Lifter



1. Plan how to tackle the job and try to foresee any problems that may occur, such as checking for cables or pipes that may be buried just below the surface where you are going to cut so that you can safely avoid any injury or damage.
2. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. This turf lifter produces vibration while in operation – see notes under the section headed "vibration".
4. This turf lifter is designed to neatly cut and lift a strip of turf, across a lawn or other level expanse of grass. The complete root system can be lifted in order to allow re-laying.
5. This turf lifter may cause injury to persons or damage to property if it is not handled and used carefully and properly.
6. Keep your hands and feet away from all moving parts while the machine is in operation.
7. If you have not used a turf lifter before, practice on an unimportant piece of grass until you are confident that you can use the turf lifter safely.
8. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 97 dB(A); safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972) to protect feet and ankles; strong gloves for handling rubbish.
9. This machine must not be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. This turf lifter is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

Every effort has been made by HAE/EHA to ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

HAE HIRE ASSOCIATION EUROPE

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Using the Turf Lifter

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and boots.
2. Lift the blade clear before moving the turf lifter over paths and borders.
3. Hold the turf lifter handle firmly with both hands while working.
4. Do not lower, or activate the blade on any hard surface. The blade will be damaged and injury could occur.
5. The engine must be running fast enough to activate the blade before you lower it into the ground.
6. If cutting on a slope do not work up and down the slope. Start at the top and work across the slope. Do not attempt to cut on steep gradients.
7. Make sure you are cutting deep enough to remove the complete root system if you are going to re-lay the grass you have just cut.
8. Walk over the cut grass carefully while working to avoid damaging it.
9. While cutting, keep a lookout for any stones or other objects in your path. Stop the turf lifter and clear them out of the way.
10. Before attempting to remove wire tangled round the blade or grass binding a wheel or any similar fault, stop the engine by closing the throttle and switching the ON/OFF switch to OFF, then remove the spark plug lead from the spark plug to prevent the engine from starting until you have rectified the fault.
11. If cutting more than one strip of grass, leave the strip just cut in place until you cut the adjacent strip. This allows the machine to operate on the level rather than one side being lower where the grass has been removed.
12. If the strip of turf is too long and too heavy to handle use a border spade or other edging tool to cut the turf into manageable sections.
13. The turf lifter can be steered to cut round gentle curves if the layout of the lawn so required.
14. When you reach the end of a cut maintain the engine speed while you lift the blade up clear of the grass.
15. Slow the engine to a tick-over and prepare for the next cut or stop the engine and roll up the strip of grass.
16. While working with the turf lifter, take care not to lose your footing on what maybe uneven ground.
17. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
18. Clean the machine at the end of each day and before you return it to the hire company.
19. If your equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
20. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

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

HAE HIRE ASSOCIATION EUROPE

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Any unauthorised reproduction – manually or electronically – is STRICTLY prohibited

©Copyright Hire Association Europe April 2011

Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this turf lifter 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 the engine inside a building or closed space unless the area is well ventilated.
3. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Erect barriers, fasten a rope, or tape barrier around the area to be cut to warn others to keep away.
4. Take extra precautions to keep children and pets away.
5. Make sure the area where you are about to cut is clear f stones, pieces or wood, or anything else that may interfere with the operation for the machine, wear your gloves to do this.
6. Large weeds with deep roots or long grass will prevent the turf lifter from operating properly; the grass should be reasonably short before you start lifting.
7. The machine should not be used in stony ground.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this turf lifter. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 96 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972) giving good foot and ankle protection.
4. You will need strong gloves to handle any rubbish or debris on the ground. The gloves will also keep your hands warm, improving blood circulation.
5. Do not wear any loose clothing that could get caught in the machine.
6. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

TURF LIFTER

1. Check your turf lifter thoroughly, including engine, control cables and levers, the cutting blade, and the tyres. If anything is found damaged, do not use the turf lifter – contact the hire company.
2. On some models, there is NO drive to the wheels but the machine must be pushed. Other models transmit only enough drive to assist the machine being pushed. Some models provide enough drive to move the machine without assistance.
3. The drive is transmitted tot eh wheels and blade by a centrifugal clutch. The clutch does not come into operation until the engine speed is increased. This means that I the engine is idling, no drive is transmitted.
4. To control the engine speed, you will have either a throttle twist grip or a hand lever on the handlebars; the hand lever also has a fast-idle locking clip to aid starting.
5. In either case, the engine will slow to idle speed if you release these controls. This will cause the centrifugal clutch to disengage and turf lifter will stop moving.
6. If the turf lifter gets out of control while working, do not fight to regain control. Release the control levers and the machine will immediately stop.
7. Make sure you understand all of the controls. Before you start the turf lifter, you must know how to control and stop it.

VIBRATION

1. Vibration from using this turf lifter can be hazardous. Warm your hands up before you start work, and wear gloves to keep your hands warm while you are working.
2. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting your hands. If your fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the turf lifter. Exercise your fingers to encourage blood circulation.
3. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the rug lifter for shorter periods; continue wearing your gloves to keep your hands warm.

CUTTING BLADE

1. The cutting blade depth is set by lifting and lowering the rear wheels.
2. On some models this is done by turning the handle located in the centre of the handlebars; these handlebars can also be adjusted for height.
3. On other models, the cutting blade is moved to a pre-set depth by lifting or lowering the spring tensioned handlebars. These handlebars can be folded over for easier transit.
4. Make sure the blade is lifted clear while manoeuvering the turf lifter into position and when starting the engine.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. Move the machine away from your work area.
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

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most turf lifters.
2. If the hire company has given you special instructions for your turf lifter, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
3. Check that the blade is lifted clear of the ground.
4. Check that the spark plug lead has been replaced and is securely on the spark plug.
5. If your machine has a fuel tap, open it. In cold conditions. You may also need to set the choke control.
6. Some models will start with the throttle set at idle; others have a fast idle setting on the throttle control.
7. Hold the machine firmly with one hand, so that it will not move when you pull the starting cord.
8. With your other hand, pull out the starting cord handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or the cord may break.
9. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
10. If the engine did not start, check that there is sufficient petrol, and that the throttle and choke controls are in the correct position. Pull the starting cord again.
11. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.
12. As soon as the engine is warm set the choke control to OFF.

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