

Shop Talk

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Power Equipment Tips

Spring has arrived (finally) and your lawn needs cutting. Chances are you didn't put fuel stabilizer in the tank last fall. So before you start pulling the starter rope, follow these tips to minimize the stress and frustration which normally occurs with this annual event.

- Drain and environmentally-soundly dispose of your old fuel from your mower **AND** jerry can and go to the gas station to buy new fuel. Old fuel is the number one culprit of failed starts. Not only does last year's fuel make it hard to start your mower, but if you are lucky enough to get it started, your mower will run on reduced power. It is best to buy no more gas than you would normally use in the next 90 days. If you are doing a basic service on your mower remove your air filter and check it against a light for dirt contamination.
- Remove your blades for a sharpen and balance.
- When you reinstall torque the bolts to 38 ft pounds.
- The engine oil should be changed with new SAE 10W-40 annually.

If you do this basic service every year I would recommend the mower go in for a full service every second or third year depending on the usage. Commercial operators will need to service their mowers more frequently.

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