



48in, 52in, or 60in Recycler® Kit Z Master® 4000 Series Riding Mower

Model No. 144-0386

Model No. 144-0387

Model No. 144-0388

Form No. 3442-816 Rev A

Installation Instructions

Safety

Using the Side-Discharge Mode or Mulching Grass

⚠ DANGER

Without a grass deflector, discharge cover, or a complete grass-catcher assembly mounted in place, you and others are exposed to blade contact and thrown debris. Contact with rotating mower blade(s) and thrown debris will cause injury or death.

- Never remove the grass deflector from the mower deck because the grass deflector routes material down toward the turf. If the grass deflector is ever damaged, replace it immediately.
- Never put your hands or feet under the mower deck.
- Never try to clear the discharge area or mower blades unless you move the blade-control switch (PTO) to the OFF position, rotate the key switch to the OFF position, and remove the key from the key switch.
- Make sure that the grass deflector is in the down position.



Installation

Loose Parts

Use the chart below to verify that all parts have been shipped.

| Procedure | Description | Qty. | Use |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | No parts required | – | Prepare the machine. |
| 2 | No parts required | – | Remove the existing blades. |
| 3 | No parts required | – | Remove the existing baffle. |
| 4 | Discharge plate Carriage bolt (5/16 x 7/8 inch) Flange nut (5/16 inch) Flange nut (3/8 inch) Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) | 1 1 1 2 2 | Install the discharge plate. |
| 5 | Left baffle Center baffle Right baffle Flange nut (3/8 inch) Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) | 1 1 1 9 9 | Install the baffles for 48-inch and 52-inch mower decks. |
| 6 | Left baffle Center baffle Right baffle Flange nut (3/8 inch) Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) | 1 1 1 9 9 | Install the baffles for 60-inch mower decks. |
| 7 | No parts required | – | Install the new blades. |
| 8 | No parts required | – | Tighten all fasteners. |

1

Preparing the Machine

No Parts Required

Procedure

1. Park the machine on a level surface.
2. Move the motion-control levers to the NEUTRAL-LOCK position.
3. Engage the parking brake.
4. Shut off the engine and remove the key.
5. Thoroughly clean the mower deck. Remove all debris to ensure that the baffles will fit properly.
6. Repair all bent or damaged areas of the mower deck and replace any missing parts.

2

Removing the Existing Blades

No Parts Required

Procedure

⚠ WARNING

The blades are sharp. Contact with a sharp blade can cause serious personal injury.

Wear gloves or wrap the sharp edges of the blade with a rag.

Refer to the *Operator's Manual* for instructions on removing the blades.

The recycler blades are sold separately. Contact your Authorized Service Dealer.

3

Removing the Existing Baffle

No Parts Required

Procedure

1. Remove the flange nuts holding the baffle in place (Figure 1).
2. Remove the bolts holding the baffle in place (Figure 1).
3. Remove the baffle and replace the nuts and bolts in the holes for the baffle (Figure 1).
4. Remove the hardware as indicated in Figure 1. Save the hardware.

Note: Save the baffle and hardware for use when changing to side-discharging mode.

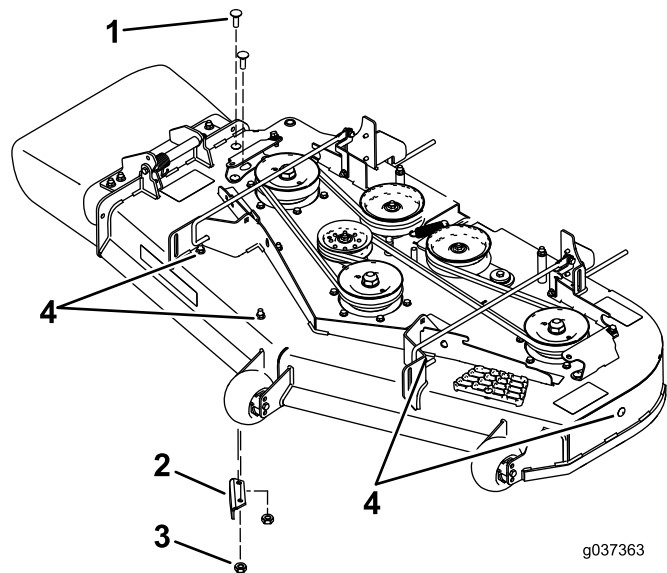


Figure 1

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. Bolts | 3. Nuts |
| 2. Baffle | 4. Remove the hardware before installing the baffles. |

4

Installing the Discharge Plate

Parts needed for this procedure:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Discharge plate |
| 1 | Carriage bolt (5/16 x 7/8 inch) |
| 1 | Flange nut (5/16 inch) |
| 2 | Flange nut (3/8 inch) |
| 2 | Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) |

Procedure

1. Install the discharge plate to the outside of the mounting bracket with 2 carriage bolts (3/8 x 1-1/4 inches) and 2 flange nuts (small flange) (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 2](#).
2. Install the tab to the inside of the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (5/16 x 7/8 inch) and 1 flange nut (5/16 inch) as shown in [Figure 2](#).

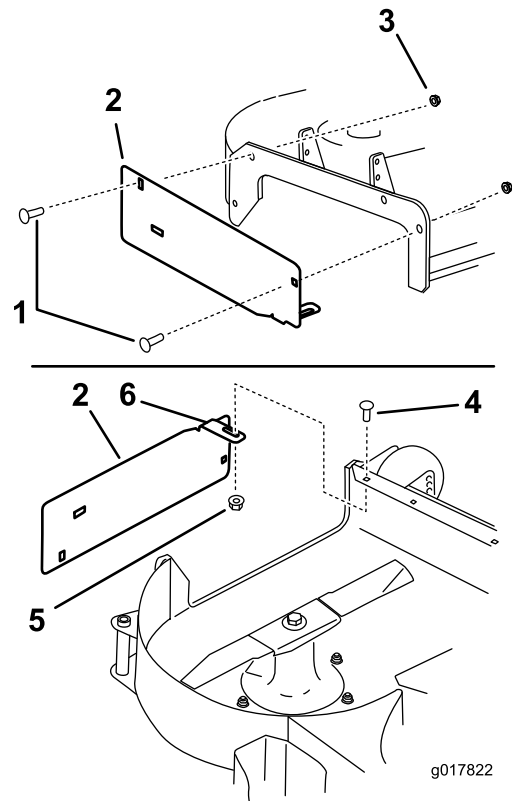


Figure 2

1. Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch)
2. Discharge plate
3. Flange nut (3/8 inch)
4. Carriage bolt (5/16 x 7/8 inch)
5. Flange nut (5/16 inch)
6. Ensure that the tab is positioned inside the mower deck.

5

Installing the Baffles 48-inch and 52-inch Mower Decks

Parts needed for this procedure:

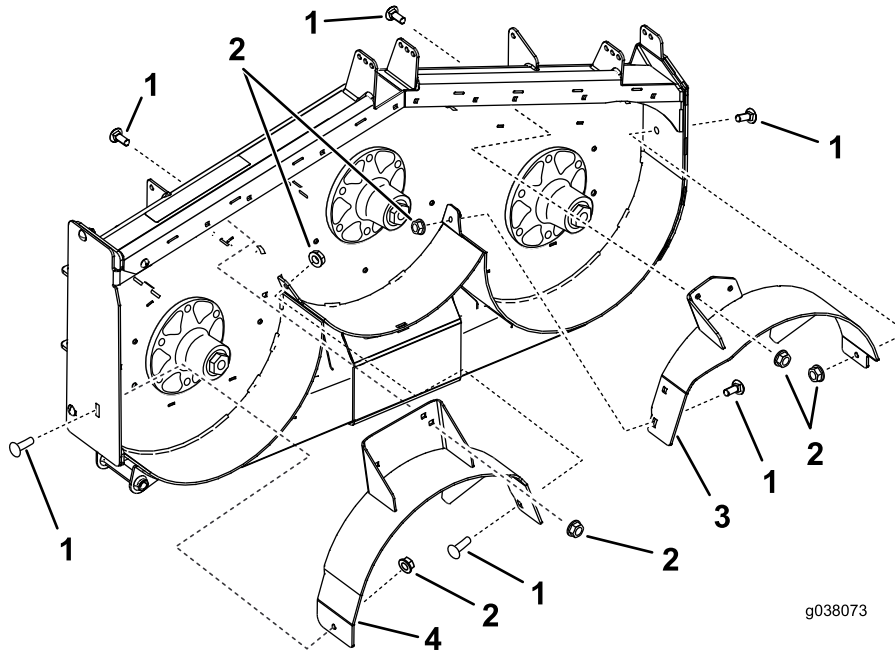
| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Left baffle |
| 1 | Center baffle |
| 1 | Right baffle |
| 9 | Flange nut (3/8 inch) |
| 9 | Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) |

Procedure

Note: Loosely install the baffles to align the baffles with all holes in the mower deck (Figure 3).

1. Position the right baffle into the mower deck.

2. Loosely install the right baffle to the discharge plate with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and a flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in Figure 3.
3. Loosely install the right baffle to the top of the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut, (3/8 inch) as shown in Figure 3. Refer to Figure 4 and Figure 5 for the correct holes to use.
4. Loosely install the right baffle to the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in Figure 3.
5. Position the left baffle into the mower deck.
6. Loosely install the left baffle to the top of the mower deck with 1 bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in Figure 3. Refer to Figure 4 and Figure 5 for the correct holes to use.
7. Loosely install the left baffle to the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in Figure 3.
8. Loosely install the left baffle to the side of the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in Figure 3.

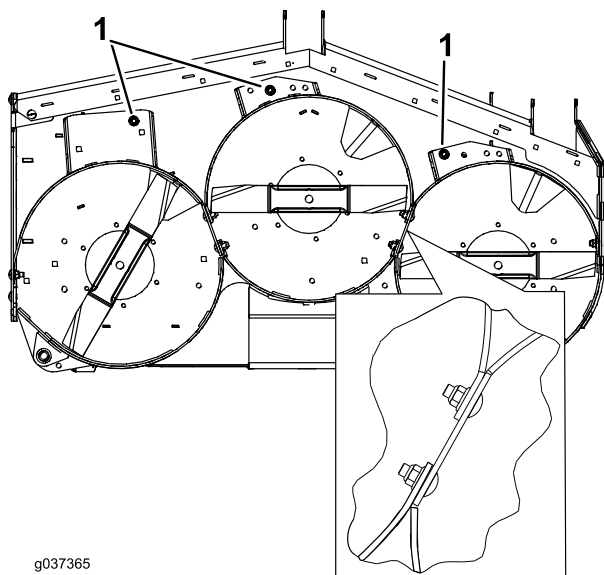


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Figure 3
52-inch mower deck shown

1. Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch)
2. Flange nut (3/8 inch)
3. Left baffle
4. Right baffle



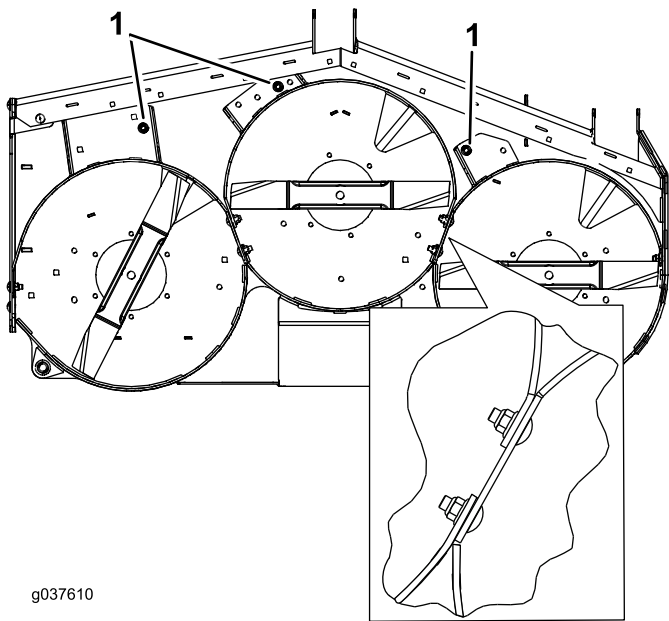
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Figure 4

48-inch mower deck shown

1. Use these holes for 48-inch mower decks



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Figure 5

52-inch mower deck shown

1. Use these holes for 52-inch mower decks
-
9. Position the center baffle into the mower deck.
 10. Loosely install the center baffle to the left baffle with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 6](#). Refer to [Figure 4](#) and [Figure 5](#) for the correct holes to use.
 11. Loosely install the center baffle to the right baffle with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 6](#).

12. Loosely install the center baffle to the top of the mower deck with 1 bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 6](#). Refer to [Figure 4](#) and [Figure 5](#) for the correct holes to use.

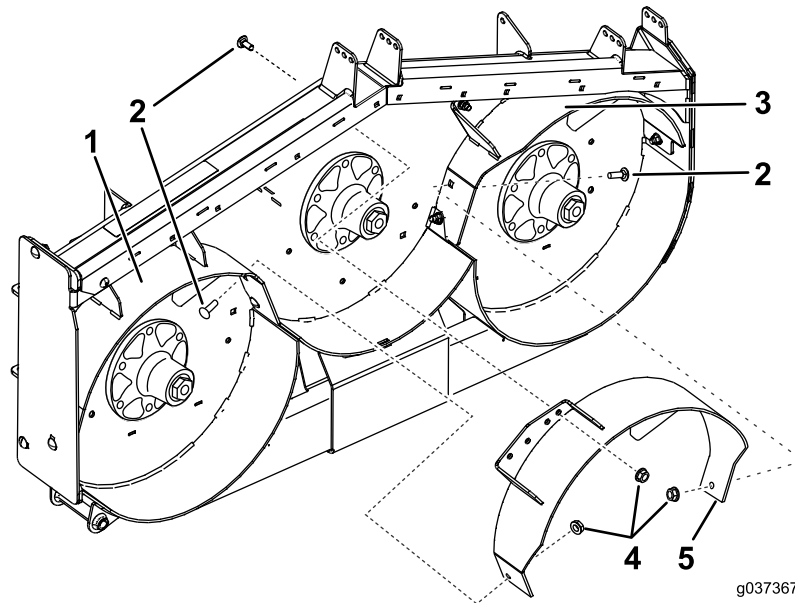


Figure 6

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Right baffle | 3. Left baffle | 5. Center baffle |
| 2. Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) | 4. Flange nut (3/8 inch) | |

6

Installing the Baffles for 60-inch Mower Decks

Parts needed for this procedure:

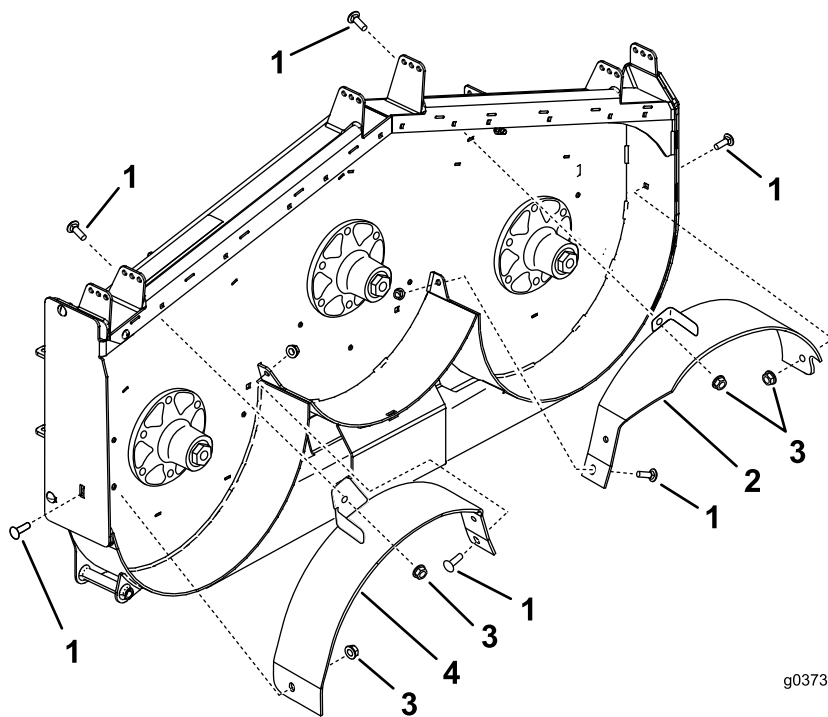
| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Left baffle |
| 1 | Center baffle |
| 1 | Right baffle |
| 9 | Flange nut (3/8 inch) |
| 9 | Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) |

- Loosely install the right baffle to the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 7](#).
- Position the left baffle into the mower.
- Loosely install the left baffle to the top of the mower deck with 1 bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 7](#).
- Loosely install the left baffle to the mower deck with 1 carriage bolts (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nuts (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 7](#).
- Loosely install the left baffle to the side of the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 7](#).

Procedure

Note: Loosely install the baffles to align the baffles with all holes in the mower ([Figure 7](#)).

- Position the right baffle into the mower.
- Loosely install the right baffle to the discharge plate with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 7](#).
- Loosely install the right baffle to the top of the mower deck with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut, (3/8 inch). Refer to [Figure 7](#) and [Figure 8](#).



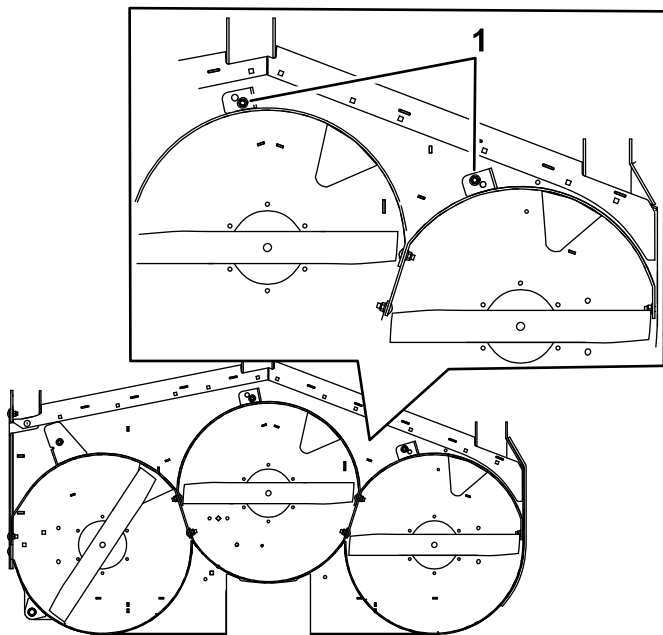
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Figure 7

60-inch mower deck shown

1. Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) 2. Left baffle 3. Flange nut (3/8 inch) 4. Right baffle



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Figure 8

1. Use these holes for 60-inch mower decks.

9. Position the center baffle into the mower.
10. Loosely install the center baffle to the left baffle with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 9](#).

11. Loosely install the center baffle to the right baffle with 1 carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 9](#).
12. Loosely install the center baffle to the top of the mower deck with 1 bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) and 1 flange nut (3/8 inch) as shown in [Figure 8](#) and [Figure 9](#).

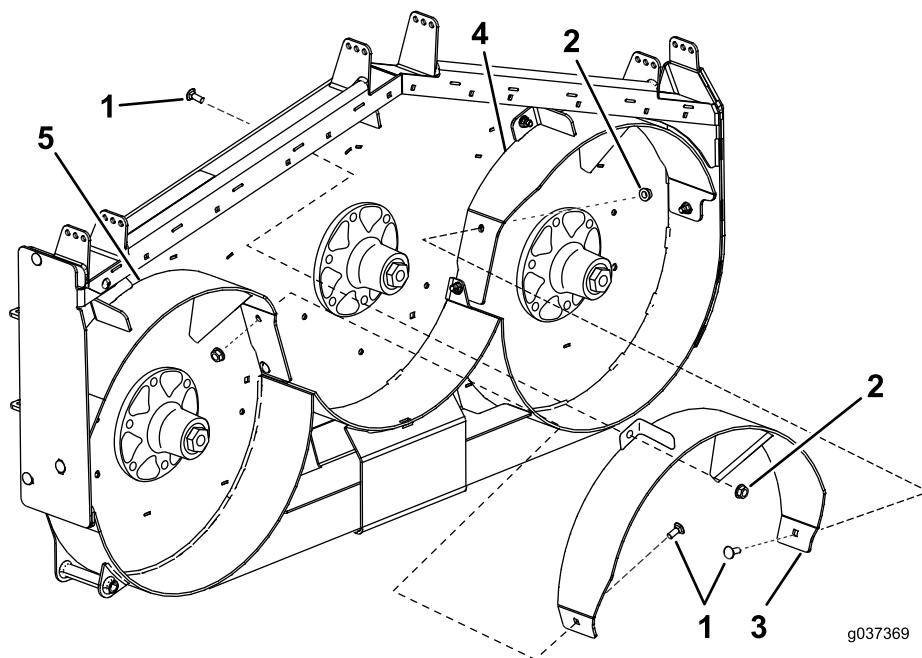


Figure 9

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Carriage bolt (3/8 x 1 inch) | 3. Center baffle | 5. Right baffle |
| 2. Flange nut (3/8 inch) | 4. Left baffle | |

7

Installing the New Blades

No Parts Required

Procedure

⚠ WARNING

The blades are sharp. Contact with a sharp blade can cause serious personal injury.

Wear gloves or wrap the sharp edges of the blade with a rag.

Refer to the *Operator's Manual* for instructions on installing the blades.

The recycler blades are sold separately. Contact your Authorized Service Dealer.

8

Tightening all Fasteners

No Parts Required

Procedure

1. Tighten all nuts and bolts for the baffles ([Figure 2](#), [Figure 3](#), [Figure 6](#), [Figure 7](#), and [Figure 9](#)).
2. Rotate the blades and ensure that there is clearance between the blades and the baffles. If there is interference, loosen the baffle and reposition it.

Operation

Selecting the Proper Height of Cut

Remove approximately 25 mm (1 inch) or no more than 1/3 of the grass blade when cutting. In exceptionally lush and dense grass you may need to raise the height of cut setting or convert to side discharge or bagging.

Mowing in Extreme Conditions

Air is required to cut and recut grass clippings in the mower housing, so do not set the height-of-cut too low or surround the housing by uncut grass. Always try to have 1 side of the mower housing free from uncut grass, allowing air to be drawn into the housing. When making an initial cut through the center of an uncut area, operate the machine slower and back up if the mower starts to clog.

Mowing at Correct Intervals

Grass grows at different rates at different times of the year. To maintain the same cutting height, mow more often in early spring. As the grass growth rate slows in mid summer, mow less frequently. If you cannot mow for an extended period, first mow at a high cutting height, then mow again 2 days later at a lower height setting.

Mowing with Sharp Blades

A sharp blade cuts cleanly and without tearing or shredding the grass. A dull blade tears and shreds the grass. Tearing and shredding causes the grass to turn brown at the edges, which impairs growth and increases susceptibility to disease.

After Operating

To ensure optimum performance, clean the underside of the mower housing after each use. If residue builds up in the mower housing, cutting performance decreases.

Notes:



Count on it.