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CONTACT:

Sara Cziok
LaBreche Murray Public Relations
612-392-7602
scziok@labrechemurray.com

MID-SUMMER MOWER MAINTENANCE TIPS

Expert advice to help keep mower operating in top condition

MINNEAPOLIS – July 26, 2004 – For most of us, the mid-point of the summer mowing season is fast approaching. While your mower has most likely worked properly to this point, now is the time to perform a simple maintenance check to keep your mower running in top condition well into fall. Here are five easy maintenance tips from the experts at Lawn-Boy to ensure that your lawn mower remains reliable throughout the rest of the mowing season and for many years to come.

1. Check the oil level.

Low oil levels can cause major engine problems. It's a good idea to change the oil midway through the summer, but if you don't have the time, take a minute to check the oil level and top off if necessary. Be sure to use oil recommended for your lawn mower. Of course, if you own a two-cycle lawn mower, oil changes aren't necessary.

2. Check all bolts, belts and chain drives for wear and tightness.

Mower friction and vibration may loosen mower parts. Check all bolts for tightness and signs of wear. It is also important to check any belts or chain drives your mower may have for wear and replace if necessary.

3. Check the spark plug, air filter and fuel filter.

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Clean the spark plug and check the spark plug gap to make sure it is right for your mower. Check the air and fuel filters for debris and replace if necessary. These filters should be cleaned or replaced once a year. A dirty air filter forces the engine to work harder, which wastes energy and can clog spark plugs.

4. Clean the mower thoroughly.

Keeping your mower free of debris will add years to its life. Be sure to rinse off the mower deck and underside after each mowing. A thorough mid-summer cleaning of the cooling fins, choke and throttle linkages and carburetor will help to keep your mower running at peak performance.

5. Keep the mower lubricated.

Friction can cause your mower's parts to wear out faster. You can eliminate unnecessary friction by properly lubricating the wheel bearings and joints on your mower. It is also a good idea to lubricate choke and throttle linkages and apply grease to fittings.

Remember, it is always a good idea to remove the spark plug wire before starting any repair or routine inspection.

For more information about Lawn-Boy, call 1-800-LBMOWER (1-800-526-6937) or visit online at www.lawn-boy.com.

Founded in 1934, Lawn-Boy® is a leader in hassle-free mowing with its easy to use, lightweight and reliable designs. Lawn-Boy offers a range of mower styles to help homeowners safely meet their toughest mowing challenges through innovative features that provide comfort, simplicity and easy maneuverability while maintaining lawns.

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