

YOUR LAWN

Get Your Mower Runnin’

(NAPSA)—From sheep to a hand-held scythe, to a push rotary mower, to the first riding mowers and now the zero-turning radius mowers, lawn mowing has been revolutionized in the last century. But one thing hasn’t changed—grass still grows each spring and your lawn will need to be mowed again. Will you be ready?

Billy Lowe of Snapper, the McDonough, GA.-based firm that has been building quality mowers for the past 50 years, has some recommendations to help you prepare for the inevitable.

Check your mower now. If you emptied the mower of gas at the end of the season, cleaned it and sharpened the cutting blade, changed the oil, cleaned the air filter and lubricated the moving parts before you put it away for the year, it should be ready to go. But, if you are like many homeowners who just parked it in the garage overjoyed to end the lawn mowing season before the snow flew, you may be in for a surprise when you try to start it for the first time this spring.

What can you do? Have your mower serviced **early** by an Independent Power Equipment dealer. Service bays are slower before the season starts. If you wait you may be lining up with everyone else who didn’t prepare their mower last fall as well as commercial cutters who rely on their machines daily. Month-long waits are not uncommon at the beginning of the season.

Add accessories and reduce your workload. If your mower is running well, maybe it’s time to put it to work doing more than just mowing. Tractors, zero-turning radius mowers and rear-engine riders have the expected accessories—grass catchers and utility trailers—but there is much more. Mulching blades, attachable fertilizer spreaders, aerators and lawn sweepers add value to your existing mower and help you get big jobs done in half the time. Even walk-behind mow-



Ready. Set. Mow!

ers have accessory options that convert your existing mower into a more productive machine that can thatch, shred leaves and mulch. Adding options like swivel wheels makes your older machine more maneuverable. Your dealer can help you find the accessories that will work best for your mower.

Is it time for a new mower?

Has your lawnscape changed since you bought your mower? Are you spending more than an hour and a half a week on mowing chores? Do you want more options, new features? If you answered yes to any or all these questions, it’s time to look at buying a new mower. Lowe recommends you ask yourself these questions before you buy:

- How big is my yard?
- Are there slopes, fencing, and lots of corners and curves?
- Who will be operating the mower?
- What options are essential to the operator?
- How long do I want this mower to last?

Answering these questions will help you define whether you want a riding or walk-behind mower and can help you narrow your search in these categories, Snapper’s Lowe says.

For more lawn care tips, information on Snapper Equipment or for a list of independent dealers, contact Snapper at 1-800-SNAPPER or visit us on the World Wide Web at www.snapper.com.