

YOUR LAWN



Proper Mowing Habits Cut Emissions As Well As Grass

(NAPSA)—American summertime traditions, such as picnics, family reunions and camping trips, are in full swing. Unfortunately, in many cities, Ozone Action Days also have become a summertime tradition.

Meteorologists declare an Ozone Action Day when weather conditions (hot and sunny with low wind speeds) and background pollution levels favor the accumulation of unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone. In order to decrease pollution levels and improve air quality, Briggs & Stratton is teaming up with Partners for Clean Air to create the “Air Aware” campaign.

“Ground-level ozone is a serious and growing problem, so we’re pleased to partner with Briggs & Stratton to raise awareness of the issue and help improve air quality,” says Peter Beitzel, chairman for Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air. “With more than 60 million homeowners mowing in this country, our mutual mission is to spread the word that everyone has the ability, and responsibility, to make a difference.”

According to HGTV host and Briggs & Stratton spokesman Pat Simpson, the “Air Aware” campaign aims to teach consumers responsible use and maintenance of lawn mowers and handling of fuel to reduce emissions up to 50 percent.

“From changing engine oil annually to using a non-spill fuel can, there are many simple steps people can take to reduce a large portion of mower-related emissions,” Simpson says. “Small engines only contribute about one percent of the man-made emissions that lead to



With regular lawn mower maintenance and careful fuel handling, Americans can make a positive impact on air quality.

ozone pollution. However, through proper maintenance and careful handling of fuel, we can reduce that number even further.”

Here are a few simple ways homeowners can reduce outdoor power equipment emissions:

Fuel Facts

- Fill the fuel tank only three-quarters full to allow room for expansion without overflowing.
- Use a “nonspill” gas container, such as the Briggs & Stratton Smart Fill Fuel Can, which prevents the release of fumes and spills.
- Reduce fuel evaporation by closing the container’s vent and keeping it out of direct sunlight.

Tune-Up Tips

- Clean or replace the lawn mower air filter every three months or after 25 hours of use.
- Keep the engine tuned,

which can add years to a mower and help reduce its emissions up to 50 percent.

- Change the engine oil after 20-25 hours of use and recycle the old oil according to community guidelines.
- Keep the mower blade sharp, the underside of the deck clean and engine-running time to a minimum.

Other Ozone-Reducing Hints

- Mulch or compost grass clippings, rather than sending them to a landfill.
- Plant more grass and trees to absorb carbon dioxide.
- Mow later in the day when the temperature is lower.

For more information about Ozone Action Days and lawn mower maintenance, visit www.cleanairwisconsin.org or www.briggsandstratton.com.