

## AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS

### ROTARY AGRICULTURE MOWER

#### Objective:

To understand hazards associated with rotary mowers and methods for reducing those hazards.

#### Background:

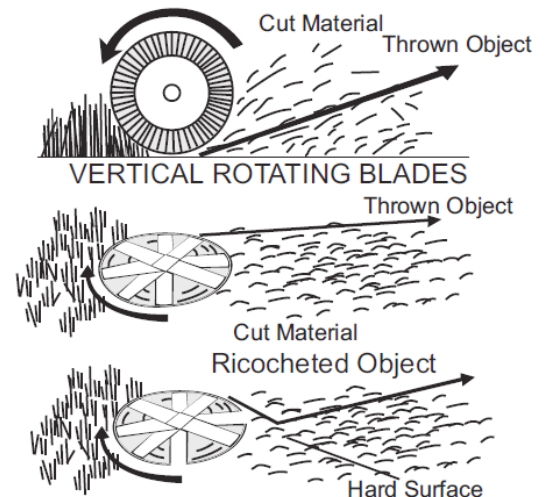
Knowing the capabilities of the mower allows for the use of the right mower for the job. The operator's manual will help determine if the mower is designed for the job.

Keep bystanders away from the mowing and never allow riders on the tractor.

Remove all litter and debris from the area to be mowed. Stones, tin cans and wire can be deadly when thrown by a mower blade. Be alert for holes and ditches; these hazards may cause the driver to lose control of the mower. Wear a seat belt when the tractor is equipped with a roll over protective structure (ROPS).

Before dismounting from the tractor always disengage the power take off (PTO), turn off the engine and set the brakes. When approaching the mower, make sure that the blades are not rotating. Be aware that the blades will continue to rotate for a while after the power has been shut-off.

Be cautious while making turns. If the rear tractor wheel of a pull type mower catches the mower frame, it could throw the operator. The three-point-hitch mounted mower can swing outward when turning. Adding front wheel weights for balance and control and a wide-setting for the rear tires enhances tractor stability and reduces the chance of a tractor overturn.



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Hazard risks increase when equipment is not well maintained. Know the proper maintenance procedures. Check machinery for loose parts and blade sharpness. Replace blades that are too dull to sharpen. Rotary mowers are equipped with runners and safety guards. To avoid excessive wear on the runners, keep the mower just high enough to avoid riding on the runner shoes.

Keep all guards in place and well maintained. Use chain or belt guards to reduce the possibility of objects being thrown from under the mower. PTO's must be shielded.

### Safety tips:

- Keep all guards in place.
- Drive cautiously and know the area.
- Always read the owner's/operator's manual.
- Keep others away from the area being mowed.
- No riders.
- Wear a seat belt when the tractor is equipped with ROPS.

### Review The Following Points:

- Know the capabilities of the mower.
- Check for debris, holes and obstacles prior to mowing.
- Add tractor weights and wider tires if needed.
- Know and follow maintenance procedures.
- Keep all guards in place at all times.

Based upon: Ohio State University Extension. *Rotary Mower*. Retrieved from website <http://ohioline.osu.edu/atts/modules.html>

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