



Operators Manual

Models:

PR18B5FA	PR22B8NRA
PR18B5NRA	PR22GH5NRA
PR18GH5NRA	PR22H5FA
PR18H5DA	PR22H5NRA
PR18H5FA	PR22NEFA
PR18H5NRA	PR22B5FBA
PR18NEFA	PR22H5FBA
PR22B5FA	S22B5DA
PR22B5NRA	S22H5DA
PR22B8FA	

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

General use

The object of this manual is to help you use your BlueBird machine safely and to give you information about how to maintain your machine. Please read the manual carefully before attempting to use the machine.

If after reading the operator's manual you are still unsure about the safety risks associated with use of the machine, you should not use the machine. Please contact your dealer for more information.

These safety instructions only address the basics for safe use. It would be impossible in the safety instructions to describe all possible risk situations that could arise when using the machine. You can, however, prevent accidents by always using common sense.

To obtain extra copies of the operator's manual, please contact your dealer.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do not use the machine until you have read the operator's manual carefully and understand the instructions given. All maintenance work or adjustments not described in this manual must be performed by an authorized BlueBird service workshop.

- Read this manual carefully and make sure you understand it before using the machine or performing any maintenance. If the user cannot read this manual, it is the responsibility of the machine owner to explain the contents to the user.
- Follow all safety instructions. Failure to do so may result in injury to yourself or others.
- Accident prevention regulations, other general safety regulations, occupational safety rules and traffic regulations must be followed without fail.
- All users shall be trained in use of the machine. The owner is responsible for training users.
- Engage an authorized BlueBird workshop for all service and repairs not described in this manual.



WARNING!

Under no circumstances may the original design of the machine be modified without written approval from the manufacturer. Such modifications not only affect the performance and durability of the machine but may even pose a safety risk for users and those in the vicinity. Unauthorized modifications to the design of the machine may absolve the manufacturer from liability for any resulting personal injury or property damage. Modifying the machine without written approval from the manufacturer may void the guarantee.

- BlueBird original spare parts are designed and specified to maintain high quality and correct fit for optimal durability and lifespan. From a safety point of view, you should only use BlueBird original spare parts.
- Check that all safety decals are in place. See the chapter "Symbols and Decals".
- Learn how to use the machine and its controls safely and learn to recognize the safety decals.
- Only use the machine for sowing and dethatching lawns. It is not intended for any other use.
- Check that the machine is in serviceable condition prior to use; see the chapter "Maintenance/Maintenance schedule".
- Only use the machine in daylight or in other well-lit conditions. Keep the machine a safe distance from holes or other irregularities in the ground. Pay attention to other possible risks.
- Only allow the machine to be used by adults who are familiar with its use.

SYMBOLS AND DECALS

Translation of instructions

Decal 7

Seed application chart

Values are approximate; quantities of seed depend on the speed at which the machine is run. Faster running speed results in sparser sowing.

Preparing the lawn

- Cut the grass to approximately 1-1.5 cm (1/2") lower than you normally would.
- Do not water before sowing.
- Remove the layer of old grass cuttings (thatch).
- Aerate the lawn with a ground aerator of the coring type.
- Fertilize the lawn.

Seed application recommendations

- For best results, sow in two directions with a 45° angle between.
- Water generously immediately afterward and continue watering moderately for 10–14 days to keep the soil moist.
- After germination, water sporadically to encourage root growth.

Decal 8

Warning

Engine exhaust, some of its constituents and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals considered by the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. The engine emits carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, poisonous gas. Do not use the machine in enclosed spaces.

Decal 10

Important information

Read and make sure you understand the Operator's Manual before use or maintenance.

To obtain a replacement manual, please contact your dealer.

Observe all safety instructions; otherwise you may injure yourself or others around you.

Make sure that the machine is in serviceable condition prior to use.

Make sure that all protective devices are in place when the machine is in use.

Stop the engine and wait until all machine movement comes to a standstill before service, adjustment or cleaning.

Do not run the engine in poorly ventilated spaces.

Make sure nobody is in the vicinity of the machine before starting and during use.

Avoid slopes that are too steep to use the machine safely.

Clear any debris from the lawn prior to use.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Never allow children or persons not trained in the use of the machine to use or service it. Local laws may regulate the age of the user.
- People and animals can distract you causing you to lose control of the machine. For this reason, you should always concentrate and focus on the task at hand.
- Never leave the machine unsupervised with the engine running.
- Make sure that other people are nearby when you are using the machine so that you can call for help should an emergency arise.
- The machine is tested and approved only with the equipment originally provided or recommended by the manufacturer.



WARNING!

The engine can become very hot. To avoid being burned, you must turn off the engine and wait until all parts have cooled before touching the engine.



WARNING!

Overexposure to vibration may lead to circulatory or nerve damage, particularly in people who have impaired circulation. Contact your doctor if you experience symptoms that could have been caused by overexposure to vibration. Examples of common symptoms include numbness, pain, muscle weakness, change of skin color or an uncomfortable feeling of tingling. These symptoms appear most frequently in the fingers, hands or wrists.



WARNING!

Always use approved protective clothing and approved protective equipment when using the machine. Protective clothing and protective equipment cannot eliminate the risk of accidents, but wearing proper clothing and the correct equipment will reduce the degree of injury should an accident occur. Ask your dealer about approved protective clothing and approved protective equipment recommended by BlueBird.

Preparations

- Make sure that you always have first aid equipment at hand when using the machine.
- Make sure nobody else is in the vicinity of the machine when you start the engine, engage the drive or run the machine.
- Make sure animals and people maintain a safe distance from the machine.
- Clear the area of objects such as stones, toys, steel wire, etc. that could become caught in moving machine parts and thrown out.
- Find and locate all fixed objects in the ground, such as sprinkler systems, poles, water valves, bases for washing lines, etc. Be certain to check for hidden electrical cables or similar in the surface of the lawn. Always run the machine around these objects. Never intentionally run the machine over foreign objects.
- Make sure all guard plates and protective shields are in place and intact when using the machine.
- Make sure no clothing, long hair or jewelry can catch in moving machine parts.
- Never use the machine when barefoot. Always wear protective shoes or protective boots with anti-slip and preferably with steel toes.
- Wear approved ear-protection when running the machine. Ask your dealer about approved ear-protection.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Operating

- Do **not** use the machine on grades of more than 20°. We recommend working across slopes rather than up and down. This will yield a more even result. Do **not** leave the machine standing on a slope unattended.
- Do **not** use the machine if you are tired, if you have consumed alcohol, or if you are taking other drugs or medication that can affect your vision, judgment or co-ordination.
- Never use the machine indoors or in spaces lacking proper ventilation.
- Do not use the machine on any surface other than grass.
- Make sure you have a proper foothold when using the machine, particularly when backing. Walk, don't run. Never work on wet grass. Poor traction may cause you to slip.
- Keep your hands and feet away from moving parts.
- Keep your hands and feet away from the work tools.
- Slow down and be especially careful on slopes. Make sure to run the machine in the recommended direction on slopes. Be careful when working close to sudden changes in level.
- Smoking, open flames or sparks in the vicinity of the machine are **strictly** forbidden. Gasoline is extremely flammable and carelessness in handling can result in personal injury or fire.
- Stop and inspect the equipment if you run over or into anything. If necessary, make repairs before beginning again.
- Whatever happens, you should always park the machine on even ground, disengage the drive, turn off the engine and wait until all moving parts have stopped before leaving the operating position behind the machine.



WARNING!

Engine exhaust, some of its constituents and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals considered to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. The engine emits carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, poisonous gas. Do not use the machine in enclosed spaces.

Movement/Transport

- To turn and steer the machine, press down on the handle and turn on the back wheels.
- Turn off the engine and allow it to cool at least 2 minutes before transport.
- Collapse the handle if the machine is equipped with a collapsible handle.
- Be careful and use safe lifting and moving techniques when loading/unloading the machine.
- We recommend having two people to lift the machine.
- Fasten the machine properly in place with approved fasteners, such as tension belts, chains or rope. Always check that you are in compliance with applicable traffic regulations before transporting the machine.

Storage

- Allow the engine to cool before storing the machine. Never store the machine near a open flame.
- Store the machine with the fuel valve closed.
- Store the machine and fuel in such a way that there is no risk that leaking fuel or fumes can come in contact with flames or sparks from electrical machines, electric engines, relays, switches, boilers or similar.
- Store the machine in a locked space away from children and adults untrained in use of the machine.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Children

Serious accidents can occur if you fail to be on guard for children in the vicinity of the machine. Never assume that children will stay put where you last saw them.

- Keep children away from the machine.
- Keep children away from the work area and under close supervision by another adult.
- Keep an eye out and shut off the machine if children enter the work area.
- Never allow children to operate the machine.
- Be particularly careful near corners, bushes, trees or other objects that block your view.

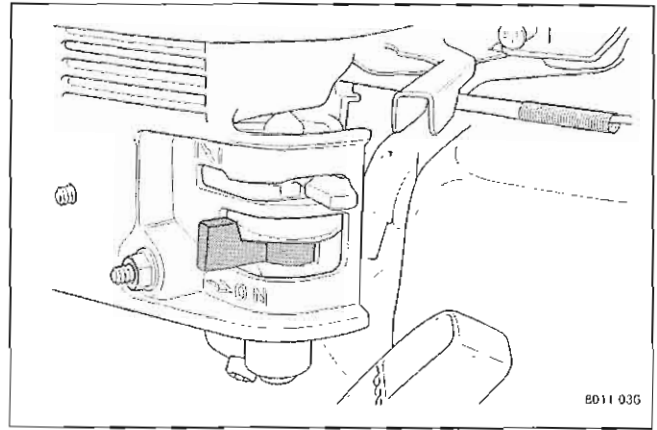
Fuel system



WARNING!

Gasoline and gasoline fumes are poisonous and extremely flammable. Be especially careful when handling gasoline, as carelessness can result in personal injury or fire.

- Only store fuel in containers approved for that purpose.
- Never remove the fuel cap and fill the fuel tank when the engine is running.
- Always stop the engine when refueling.
- Do not smoke when filling the gasoline tank and do not pour gasoline in the vicinity of sparks or open flame.
- Never fill the fuel tank indoors.
- Before starting the machine after refueling, it should be moved at least 10 feet (3 M) from the location where it was filled.
- Turn off the fuel supply for storage or transport.
- If leaks arise in the fuel system, the engine must not be started until the problem has been resolved.



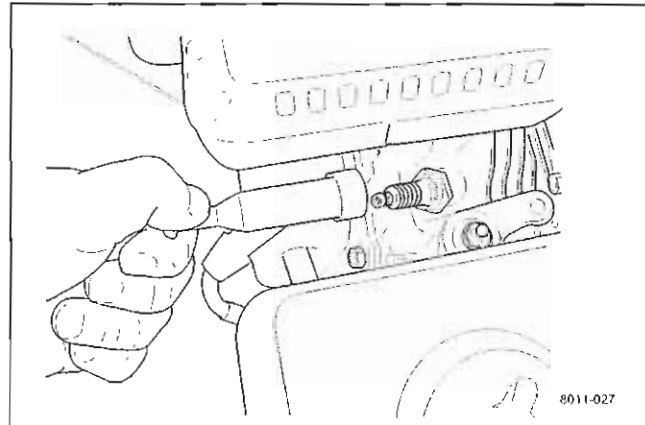
Close the fuel valve.

- Check the fuel level before each use and leave space for the fuel to expand, because the heat from the engine and the sun can otherwise cause the fuel to expand and overflow.
- Avoid overfilling. If you spill gasoline on the machine, wipe up the spill and wait until it has evaporated before starting the engine. If you spill gasoline on your clothing, change your clothing.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Maintenance

- Never make adjustments with the engine running.
- Disengage the drive units, shut off the engine and wait until all moving parts come to a complete stop before making adjustments, performing maintenance or cleaning the machine.
- Disconnect the spark plug cable before beginning repair work.
- Keep all components in serviceable condition and make sure all nuts, bolts, etc. are tight. Replace worn or damaged decals.
- Be careful when checking work tools. Use gloves when performing maintenance work.
- Never allow persons not trained in the use of the machine to perform service on it.
- Always park the machine on even ground before performing maintenance or making adjustments.
- Do not disassemble the engine. This can invalidate your engine warranty. Contact your dealer if you have any questions regarding service or guarantee matters. Follow all maintenance instructions.
- Do not change the setting of governors and avoid running the engine with overly high RPM. If you run the engine too fast, you risk damaging the machine components.
- Do not modify safety equipment. Check regularly to be sure it works properly. The machine must not be run with defective or disassembled safety equipment.
- The muffler is designed to maintain sound levels at an approved level and keep direct exhaust away from the user. Exhaust gases from the engine are extremely hot and may contain sparks that can cause fires or burn the user.
- Never use a machine with a defective muffler.
- Reduce the risk of fire by removing grass, leaves and other debris that may have caught in the machine.



Disconnect the spark plug cable before repair work.



WARNING!

Wait until all moving parts are completely still before performing maintenance on the machine.

Turn off the engine and remove the spark plug cable.



CONTROLS

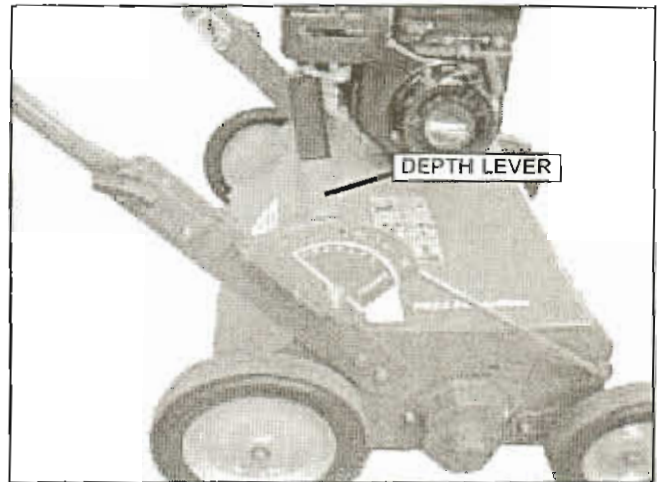
Engine

Refer to your engine manual.

Cutting unit

Depth lever

Use the depth lever to raise and lower the blades between working and transport position. The depth lever has a lock-out bolt that should be left in till the blades wear down. Then move the bolt to another hole to allow the blades to penetrate the soil to a depth of 1/8" to 1/4" with a maximum penetration of a 1/2". Check your seed bag for the manufacture's recommended depth of application.



Clutch

The clutch tightens the drive belt and engages the drive for the blades. When the clutch lever is pressed against the handle, the blades begin to rotate. Hold the clutch tightly when working so that the belt does not slip.

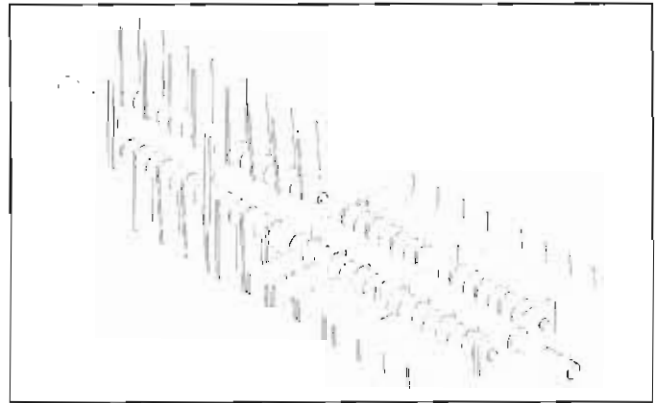


CONTROLS

Blade versatility

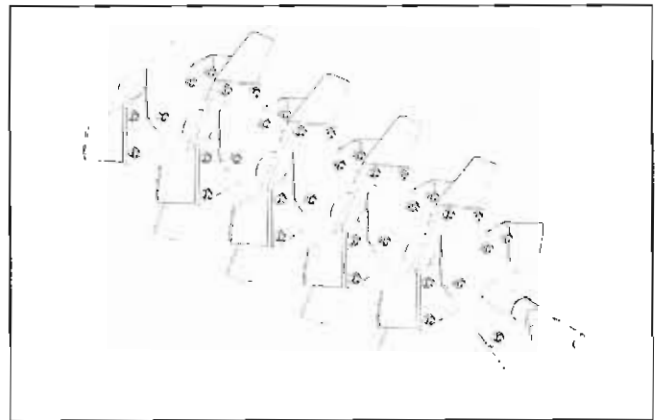
Flail blade

Thatch is the dense layer of clippings, roots and stems that forms between the soil and the base of the grass. As thatch builds up, it prevents water, air and fertilizer from being absorbed into the soil. This causes shallow root development leading to vulnerability to drought and frost. Excessive thatch also creates an ideal environment for insects and lawn diseases. Power-raking with flail blades removes this thatch layer and restores your lawn to good health. Flail blades offer the most aggressive dethatching of all the blades offered.



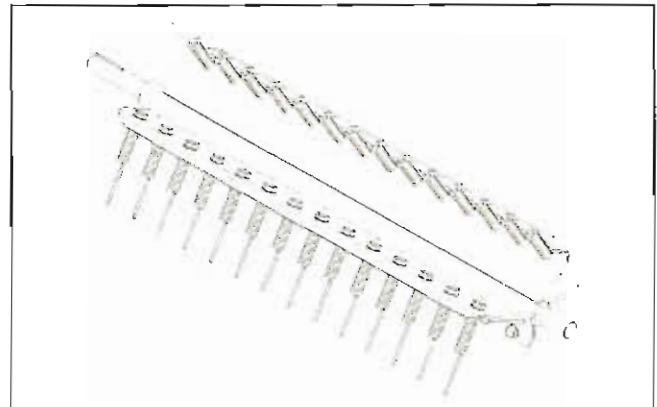
Delta blade

Delta blades were created primarily for overseeding existing lawn. They effectively incorporate grass seed into the soil. This is an easy, reliable method for rejuvenating poor lawns. The delta blade is also useful as a vertical mower for cutting running stem grasses and opening up the soil to oxygen, water, nutrients and other chemicals. Delta blades are also beneficial on slopes, terraces and in high clay content soils where water runoff is a problem. The blades should be set to penetrate the soil to a depth of 1/8" to 1/4" with a maximum penetration of 1/2". Check your seed bag for the manufacturer's recommended depth of application.



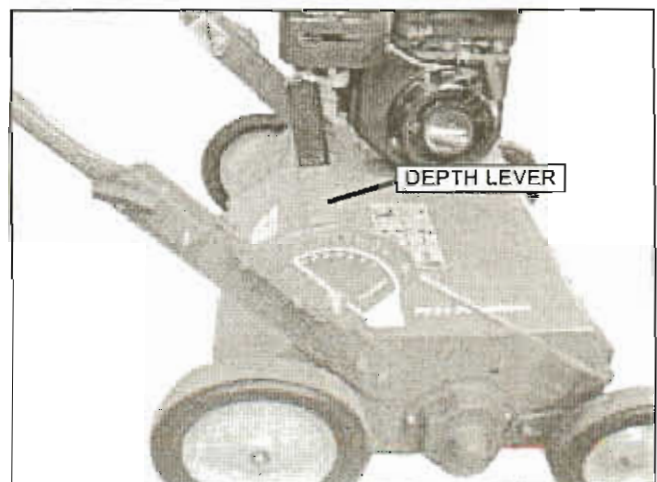
Spring tine

Ideal for the established lawn that is not in need of a complete renovation but requires dethatching (dry-spots, fungus, etc.). Spring tines are designed to pluck dead grass and thatch out of the lawn without tearing or damaging existing root structure. With the flexible tines, the lawn is combed only 0.5 cm into the soil, so it cannot penetrate the root structure. Spring tines provide less aggressive dethatching than flail blades.



Setting blade height

The blades are raised and lowered using a depth lever on the right side of the machine. Push in and move lever to the correct height. Higher numbers increase the blade depth.



OPERATION

Before you start

- Mow the lawn 1/2" shorter than normal.
- Allow the lawn to dry. Wet conditions can cause extensive damage to healthy grass.

FLAIL BLADES OR SPRING TINES:

- **Flail Blades or Spring Tines:** Set blade or tine depth so that the blades or tines just touch on a flat surface such as a sidewalk or driveway.
- **Delta Blades:** Set blades to penetrate the soil to a depth of 1/8" to 1/4" with a maximum penetration of 1/2". Check your seed bag for the manufacture's recommended depth of application
- Lawns with deep thatch exceeding 3/4" may be best dethatched in two treatments (spring and fall) to avoid major shock to an older lawn.

Starting

- Set the depth lever in working position.
- To engage the clutch in heavy thatch, bear down on the handle and raise the front wheels slightly. Hold the clutch engaged against the handle and carefully lower the machine into the turf.
- Do a small test area at a slow walking pace.
- If the engine speed drops excessively, the depth setting is too deep.
- If the machine pulls forward and bucks roughly, the depth setting is too deep. Check for stones or fixed objects in the lawn.

Finishing

- Remove all extracted thatch from the grass and compost/dispose of properly.
- Other methods for improving your lawn may include aeration and fertilization.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Clear the lawn of any debris.

Clearly mark rocks and other fixed objects.

Be especially sure to check for hidden electrical cables or similar in the surface of the lawn.

