For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

Redistributed under licence from HAE by Moorhouse Plant & Trailer Hire. Licence expires on 31/05/2023

1603 Safety Guidance
2 STROKE PETROL v:112016

moorhouse plant & trailer hire
01202 688731
www.moorhouse-hire.co.uk

Petrol/Oil Mix (2 Stroke) Brush Cutter

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the brush cutter

1. Petrol mixture is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. This brush cutter is designed for cutting brush, undergrowth, grass and small saplings, using the appropriate attachments.
3. The sharp blades on the cutting head rotate very fast and can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
4. If you have not used a brush cutter before, familiarise yourself with how the machine works before you start the main task.
5. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
6. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: Face shield – impact resistant EN166-B or BS2092 grade 1; Ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 107db(A); Safety Helmet to EN397 or BS5240; Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4962; Gloves.
7. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. This machine is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

Every effort has been made by HAE/EHA to ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

Using the Brush Cutter

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders, helmet, face shield and safety boots.
2. Attach the brush cutter to your harness carefully.
3. Make sure there is no-one in your area of work.
4. Always hold the brush cutter with both hands as well as using the harness.
5. Make sure the cutting head is running at full speed before starting to cut into the brush.
6. Keep the cutting head at or near ground level.
7. Beware of debris and dirt that may be thrown up by blades.
8. If the brush cutter starts to labour and slow down do not force it so hard. Do not overload the engine.
9. Stop the engine if someone approaches you.
10. If you need to adjustments to the blade or guard stop the engine and wait until the blades have completely stopped. Wear your gloves to prevent cutting your hands while you make the adjustments.
11. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
12. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
13. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep it until you finish work.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

v:112016

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this brush cutter where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, never run the brush cutter indoors or in poorly ventilated locations.
3. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
4. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep at least 10 metres (32 feet) away.
5. Before starting clear the area of stones, wire, stout branches and other debris that could foul your cutting blades.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this brush cutter. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. You must wear a face shield (EN166 – B or BS2092 grade 1).
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 107 db(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
4. You must wear a safety helmet (BS5240) when working with this machine. Tie up any long hair to prevent it getting caught in the machine.
5. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972).
6. You should wear gloves especially when changing or adjusting the blades.
7. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

BRUSH CUTTER

1. Check your machine, engine and all equipment including harness. Do not use anything found damaged – contact the hire company.
2. Do not operate this brush cutter without using the harness.
3. Brush cutters should only be used at or near ground level.
4. The cutting blades should be covered, during the storage and transport, to protect the blades and you.
5. Make sure you use the correct type of blades recommended by the hire company for the material being cut. Only use sharp blades.
6. Wear gloves when fitting or adjusting the blades or the guard.
7. Only fit the correct cutting attachments and fit them in the correct manner, do not improvise.
8. Make sure the guard around the cutting blades is in place and adjusted correctly.
9. Make sure that you understand all of the controls. Before you start the bush cutter, you must know how to stop it.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Use a fresh mixture of two stroke engine oil with petrol. If the hire company have given you special instruction on how much oil to use, follow them. Otherwise use 1 measure of two stroke oil to 25 measures of petrol (40 ml per litre).
3. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
4. If possible move the machine away from your work area.
5. Clean the filter can and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
6. Shake the fuel can to mix the petrol and oil.
7. Use a funnel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
8. Wipe away any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked clothing carefully.
9. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up and cover it with soil.
10. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
11. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe place

STARTING THE BRUSH CUTTER FROM COLD

1. Set the engine controls correctly. The choke should be pulled out and the part throttle lock engaged.
2. Lay the brush cutter on the ground with the cutting attachment clear of any obstruction.
3. Hold the brush cutter firmly so it will not move when you pull the starter. Do not put your foot on the tube to prevent movement, you will damage it.
4. Pull the starter grip out slowly until you can feel the starter has engaged with the engine, and then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far or it may break.
5. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
6. As soon as the engine has fired, squeeze and release the throttle to release the part throttle setting.
7. Turn off the choke when the engine is running smoothly.
8. If the cutting attachment rotates while the machine is idling do not use it. Return to the hire company.

STARTING THE BRUSH CUTTER WHEN HOT

1. Follow the same procedure as for a cold start without using the choke or part throttle setting.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Any unauthorised reproduction – manually or electronically – is STRICTLY prohibited
©Copyright Hire Association Europe April 2011