

LawnMaster®



26CC STRAIGHT SHAFT **LINE TRIMMER**

SAFETY AND OPERATING MANUAL

PLEASE READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE OPERATING THE UNIT

L261



A STEELFORT PRODUCT



PROUDLY
NZ OWNED



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Thank you for purchasing our LawnMaster L261 Line Trimmer, the information container within this manual will help you to have many years of safe and trouble free use of this LawnMaster product

OPERATOR SAFETY

SAFETY RULES

This manual contains important safety information and instructions to operate the LawnMaster Straight Shaft Line Trimmer

PLEASE READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THE UNIT.

Failure to adhere to the safety instructions could result in property damage and/or serious personal injury.

This manual should be considered a permanent part of the line trimmer and should remain with the unit at all times. All information in this publication is based on the latest product information available at the time of printing.

Product Information and specifications can be altered and/or improved without notice. Content from this publication may not be reproduced without written consent.

DANGER

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not strictly complied with, will result in substantial property damage and or serious injury.

WARNING

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not strictly complied with, may result in property damage

CAUTION

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not strictly complied with, could result in property damage or personal injury.

The warnings and precautions discussed in this manual does not cover all possible conditions and or scenarios that may occur.

It must be understood by the operator that common sense and caution must be taken into consideration when operating this product, as these are factors which cannot be built into this manual.

DANGER

TOXIC FUMES

- The exhaust of the engine contains carbon-monoxide, an odorless, colorless poison gas. Using the engine in confined/indoor spaces can be extremely dangerous and life threatening.

FIRE

- When operating the unit, the engine may create sparks that could trigger fires.
- When operating around dry vegetation such as agricultural crops, forest, bush, grass, or other similar environments please be careful.
- Check if a spark arresting muffler is included with this engine. Spark arresters are legally mandated in certain areas. Contact your local council or fire agency for fire prevention regulations.
- Petrol is highly flammable and explosive, posing a risk of severe burns, injury, or even death from fire or explosion.
- Handle petrol away from flammable items. Fill the fuel tank outdoors in a well-ventilated area with the engine off.
- Always wipe spilled fuel and wait until the fuel has dried before starting the engine.
- DO NOT operate the engine with known leaks in the fuel system. Use proper fuel storage and handling procedures.
- Empty the fuel tank before storing or transporting the line trimmer.
- Keep fire extinguisher handy at all times.

HOT SURFACE

- Running the trimmer generates heat and contact can cause severe burns. DO NOT touch the engine during or immediately after operation.
- Avoid contact with hot exhaust gases and or hot surfaces.
- Maintain 1m clearance on all sides for cooling; combustible materials can catch fire. Keep at least 3m clearance from combustible materials.

GENERAL WARNINGS

- Before use, check for loose or damaged parts, signs of oil or fuel leaks, and any other condition that may impact operation.
- Repair or replace all damaged and or defective parts immediately.
- Locate all operating controls and safety labels.
- Make sure all the safety instructions are in correct working condition.

- Keep all safety guards in place and in proper working order at all times.
- DO NOT allow any material to block the cooling slots.
- DO NOT allow children or untrained people to operate the unit.
- Read and follow the instructions to understand the controls and proper appliance usage.
- This product has been designed for use in cutting grass ONLY.
- Never use while people, especially children, or pets are nearby.
- The operator/user is liable for accidents or damage caused to others or their property.
- Avoid running the engine indoors. The exhaust gases contain harmful carbon monoxide.
- Always store fuel in a properly marked container that complies with New Zealand standards.
- Do not smoke while mixing fuel or during filling the fuel tank.
- Do not mix fuel in an enclosed room or near an open flame, ensure adequate ventilation.
- Never remove the fuel tank cap while the engine is running.
- Never attempt to make engine adjustments while the engine is running and strapped to the operator.

PREPARATION

- While cutting, always wear substantial footwear and long trousers.
- Do not operate the appliance when barefoot or wearing open sandals.
- Inspect and clear the area of any foreign objects, such as stones, sticks, wires, bones, etc., before using the appliance.
- Before use, check the nylon head and bolts assembly for wear or damage, and replace them together for balance.
- Always wear ear and eye protection when operating the L261 trimmer.

OPERATION

- Operate only in daylight or in good artificial light.
- Avoid operating the appliance in wet grass.
- Always be sure of your footing on slopes.
- Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Do not cut on excessively steep slopes.
- Use extreme caution when reversing or pulling the appliance towards you.
- Never operate the appliance with defective guards or shields, or without safety devices.

- Switch on the motor according to instructions and with feet well away from the cutter.
- Tilt the appliance minimally and lift only the part away from the operator. Always have both hands in the operating position when lowering it back down.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Pull the spark from the socket:- before clearing a blockage; before checking, cleaning or working on the appliance.
- Inspect the appliance for damage and make repairs as necessary.
- If the appliance starts to vibrate abnormally (check immediately).
- Do not operate when tired, ill, or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.
- Stop the engine and let it cool before refueling. Never refuel while the engine is running or hot.
- When refuelling, be sure to stop the engine and allow the engine to cool down. Never refuel when the engine is running or hot.

GETTING STARTED

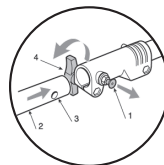
The line trimmer is a high-speed and fast cutting power tool. All safety precaution must be observed to reduce the risk of personal injury. Please read this manual carefully and become familiar with the controls before using the unit. This line trimmer has been designed for cutting grass. Any other use is not permitted. The grass trimmer is suitable for private use in the garden only, not for cutting grass in public parks, playing fields or on farms or in forest.

ASSEMBLY

When assembling this machine, please follow the instructions for assembly printed.

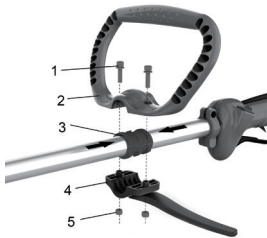
CONNECT THE SHAFTS

1. Remove the rubber shaft plug and cap.
2. Pull up the spring-loaded pin (1) and push the lower shaft (2) into the aluminum coupler until the spring loaded pin (1) clicks into the hole (3) of the aluminum coupler.
3. Once the spring-loaded pin is completely inserted, tighten the coupler knob (4).



ATTACH HANDLE

1. Put left handle rubber cover (3) on the shaft between the two arrow positioning label.
2. Fix the upper handle (2) with lower handle (4) to the tube with screws (1) and nuts (5) tightly enough.



ATTACH THE BLADE GUARD

- Attach the guard using the hex key included. The guard is attached to the lower shaft with two hex screws facing the operator.



WARNING

Use only original manufacturer's replacement parts, accessories and attachments. Failure to do so can cause poor performance, possible injury and may void your warranty. Never use the trimmer without the guard securely attached!

ATTACH/DETACH CUTTING HEADS

Remove the brush cutting blade nut and flange. Line up the holes of flange and shield, use the hex key included to prevent the shaft from turning. Turn the included socket wrench clockwise.



ATTACH/DETACH THE STRING TRIMMER HEAD

Line up the holes of flange and shield, use the hex key included to prevent the shaft from turning. To attach the string trimmer head turn counter-clockwise until snug. To detach the string trimmer head turn clockwise until it is released from the shaft.



ATTACH/DETACH THE BRUSH CUTTING BLADE.

Remove the nut and outer flange. Place the blade, outer flange, shield and nut on the trimmer head in the order as shown.

Note the blade rotation direction must match arrows marked on the blade. Line up the holes of the flange and shield, use the hex key included to prevent the shaft from turning. Turn counter-clockwise, ensuring the nut is tight. To detach the brush cutting blade turn the nut clockwise until it is released from the shaft and remove the blade.

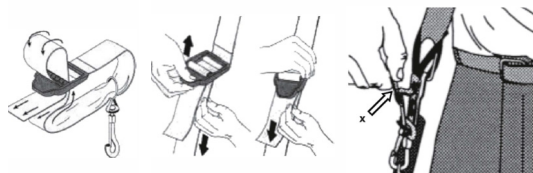
WARNING

Verify the cutting head is tight and has been assembled correctly before every use!

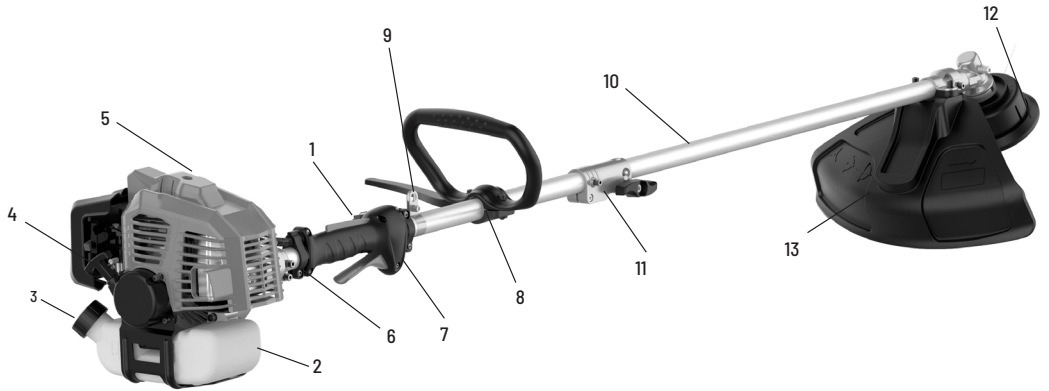


FIT/ATTACH THE SHOULDER HARNESS

Place strap over the operators head and one shoulder. Adjust the harness length to the operators arm reach. Clip harness to the harness hanger on the trimmer.



FEATURES & TECHNICAL DATA



- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. On/Off Switch | 6. Rear Handle | 11. Coupler |
| 2. Fuel Tank | 7. Throttle Control | 12. Cutting Head |
| 3. Fuel Tank Cap | 8. Handle | 13. Nylon Head |
| 4. Choke Lever | 9. Harness Hanger | |
| 5. Spark Plug | 10. Shaft | |

MODEL	LML261
Idle speed (r/min)	3000 +/- 500
Nylon Head	Twin Line Tap & Go Head
Engine	Air-Cooling, 2 Stroke
Spark Plug	NGK BPMR7A / BOSCH WSR6F
Displacement (cc)	25.4
Maximum Cutting Speed	11500 +/- 500
Maximum Cutting Diameter	430mm
Maximum Output (kw)	0.7KW
Ignition	Electronic
Spool For Grass Trimmer	2.4 Diameter Line x 2m Length
Method of Starting	Soft Start Recoil
Fuel Used	Gasoline mixed with 2 stroke oil 25:1
Fuel Tank Capacity	600ml
Weight	6.5kg

Technical Data is subject to change without notice.

OPERATION

1. FUEL & OIL MIXTURE

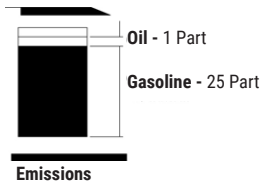
Never use oil for 4-cycle engine use or water-cooled 2-cycle engine. It can cause spark plug fouling exhaust port blocking or piston ring sticking. Mixed fuels, which have been left unused for a period of one month or more may clog the carburetor or result in the engine failing to operate properly. Put remaining fuel into an airtight container and keep it in the dark and cool room.

DANGER

Fuel is explosive. Turn off and cool the motor down before filling the tank with fuel. You must observe all safety instructions relating to handling fuel.

Fuel used for this model is a mixture of unleaded gasoline and approved engine lubricant. When mixing petrol with two-cycle engine oil, use only petrol that DOES NOT contain ETHANOL or METHANOL (types of alcohols).

Use 91 unleaded petrol to fuel the unit. This will help avoid possible damage to the engine fuel lines and other engine parts.



FUEL

The engine uses two-stroke fuel. If you have emission requirements, the mixture ratio of the fuel to oil should be 25:1

Be careful, a wrong mixture of the fuel will cause machine failure.

Petrol	2-Stroke Oil
1 Litre	40 ml
2 Litre	80 ml
5 Litre	200 ml

PETROL

Use 91 and above Unleaded Fuel.

STORING FUEL

The tank to store the fuel should be clean, anti-static, high-temperature-resistant, fire prevention and safe.

IMPORTANT

Two-stroke fuel may separate. Shake fuel container thoroughly before every use. Do not mix more fuel than you expect to use within a month. Take care of the emission of exhaust gases. Always shut off engine before fueling. Never add fuel to a machine with a running or hot engine. Never smoke whilst refueling and avoid inhaling the petrol fumes. Carefully open the tank top as pressure could have formed inside.

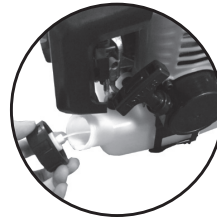
BEFORE REFUELING

- Shake the fuel mixture container well.
- Place the machine on a flat stable surface, with the fuel tank cap facing upwards.
- Clean the fuel tank cap and the surrounding area to avoid any dirt from entering the tank during refilling.
- Carefully open the fuel tank cap to allow the pressure inside to decrease gradually.
- Unscrew the tank cap and remove it.
- Pour in the fuel carefully, avoid spilling.
- Screw the tank cap on firmly by hand.



DRAINING FUEL

- Hold a collection container beneath the fuel drain bolt.
- Unscrew the fuel cap and remove it.



- Allow the fuel to run out completely.
- Press the priming bulb and let fuel run out.
- Screw the fuel cap on firmly by hand.
-

WARNING

Always close the fuel tank cap firmly.

Immediately clean all traces of fuel which may have dripped on the machine or the ground and do not start the engine until the petrol fumes have dissipated.

2. RULES FOR SAFE OPERATION

WARNING

Read the "Rules for Safe Operation" with care and follow the instructions in the manual to operate the unit safely.

Read and be thorough with the basic controls and functions of the unit. It is important that you know how to stop and to shut off the engine, and to unhook a harnessed unit quickly.

Do not allow anyone without proper instruction or training to operate the unit. All operators of the unit should wear appropriate foot, leg, eye, face and hearing protection. Do not rely on the debris shield on the unit to protect your eyes from thrown objects.

Keep the area clear of bystanders, children and pets. Never allow children to operate or play with the unit. Do not allow anyone to enter the operating DANGER ZONE with you. The danger zone is an area 15 meters in radius (about 16 paces) or 50 feet.



Insist that persons in the RISK ZONE beyond the danger zone wear eye protection from thrown objects. If the unit must be used where there are unprotected people, operate at a low throttle speed to reduce the risk of thrown objects.

Move the stop switch to "stop" position when the engine idles, insure its reliable before cutting. Only may continue to operate the unit when stop switch is in good condition.

Routines for checking that the cutting attachment stops turning when the engine idles.

WARNING

In addition to head, eye, face and ear protection, please wear appropriate footwear to protect your feet and to improve footing on slippery surfaces. Do not wear open-toed footwear, or go bare foot or bare legged.

3. PREPARING FOR OPERATION

IMPORTANT

Failure to follow proper fuel mix instructions may cause damage to the engine.

When preparing fuel mixture, mix only the amount needed for the job you intend to do. Do not use fuel that has been stored longer than two months. Fuel mixture stored longer than this will cause hard starting and poor performance. If fuel mix has been stored longer than this time, it should be removed and filled with a fresh mixture.

WARNING

- Never fill the fuel tank to the brim. (Under 3/4 of the tank)
- Never add fuel to the tank in a closed non-ventilated area.
- Do not add fuel to this unit close to an open fire or sparks.
- Be sure to wipe spilled fuel before attempting to start the engine
- Do not attempt to refuel a hot engine.

CHECK POINTS BEFORE OPERATION

- Check for loose bolts, nuts and fittings.
- Check the air filter for dirt. Clean before operation.
- Check to be sure that protector is securely in place.
- Check that fuel isn't leaking.
- Check to be sure the line is fixed and ready to operate.

STARTING THE TRIMMER

Once the machine has been set up properly and inspected, cold start the engine as follows.

WARNING

The switch will always remain in the 'ON' position. To stop the unit press it to 'OFF' and hold until it is no longer running, release and it will return to the 'ON'

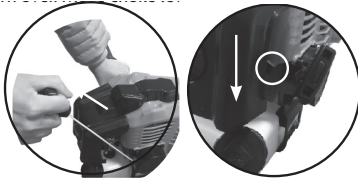
1. Press the priming bulb 7 times.



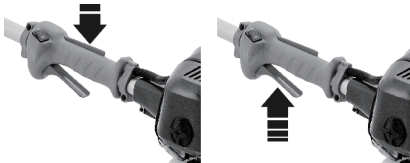
2. Move the choke lever to the START position.



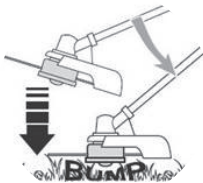
3. Hold the machine firmly on the ground with one hand. Pull the starting cord 3-5 times until you hear the engine start to turn over. Move choke lever to the RUN position.



4. Pull the starting cord again until the engine starts.
5. **Before starting work, allow the engine running one minutes at idling to warm up.** To begin trimming, press the lock lever down with your thumb and pull the throttle lever with your fingers to increase power.



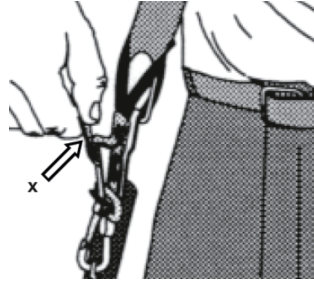
6. To adjust the line length while working: This trimmer is fitted with a "Bump-N-Feed" head. To release more line, tap the cutting line head against the ground with engine at top speed. Line will be released automatically and the knife on the blade guard will cut off the excess.



7. If any problems occur during operation, switch. The machine will stop running.



8. If any problems occur during operation, release the shoulder harness by pulling the pin to release the trimmer immediately.



If the machine is still warm from running, warm start the engine as follows:

1. Move the throttle lever to the RUN position
2. Pull the starting cord to start the engine.

REPLACING LINE

1. Unclip the housing from the line trimmer and remove spool from the spindle.
2. Remove all remaining cutting line from the spool.
3. Cut 2m of line. Fold in half and attach the middle of the line into the groove/slot located in the center of the spool.



4. Wind both sides of the line on to the spool with tension in the same direction as shown on the inside of the spool. (See above right image).

- Continue to wind the line until you have 150mm of line left on each end. Note: It is helpful to clip and fasten the line on opposite ends of the spool to keep the line from unraveling during the next step.



- Put the spool into housing. Unclip the line from the spool and place line through the open eyelet on opposite ends of the housing. Ensure the line has not tangled.



- Clip the housing back onto the line trimmer



MAINTENANCE & STORAGE

It is the operator's responsibility to complete all scheduled maintenance and or servicing in a timely manner. Always correct any issues before operating the line trimmer. Follow all inspection and maintenance recommendations that are listed in the manual.

WARNING

Improper maintenance and or failure to correct problems prior to operating the unit may cause the unit to malfunction and result in property damage and or serious personal injury. Improper maintenance and servicing may void warranty.

During maintenance operations:

- Remove the spark plug cap.
- Wait until the engine is sufficiently cold.
- Never dispose of oils, fuel or other polluting materials in unauthorized places.

Before performing any maintenance or cleaning work, always turn off the engine.

- Do not spray the unit with water. Ingress of water
- Clean the unit with a cloth, hand brush, etc.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

	12 hours of use	24 hours of use	36 hours of use
Air Filter	Clean	Clean	Replace
Spark Plug	Clean	Clean	Replace

Expert inspection is required:

- If the grass trimmer strikes an object.
- If the motor stops suddenly
- If the nylon cutter is damaged
- If the internal gears are damaged.

Always clean and rewind the nylon spool at the end of the trimming season. Always clean the nylon spool or, if required, replace the spool. Always have the nylon spool cleaned or replaced by a qualified LawnMaster Service Dealer.

CLEANING THE ENGINE

To reduce the risk of fire or overheating, periodically clean the cylinder fins and air vents with compressed air and clear the silencer area to get rid of dust, branches, leaves or other debris.

GENERAL INSPECTION

Periodically check that all the nuts and screws are securely tightened and the hand grips are securely fastened. If you notice signs of wear on the starting cable, contact your dealer for a replacement. Frequently check for and replace any damaged parts.

CLEANING & CHANGING SPARK PLUG

- Periodically remove and clean the spark plug using a metal brush to get rid of any deposits.
- Check and reset the correct distance between the electrodes.
- Replace the spark plug and fasten it firmly using the supplied wrench.
- The spark plug must be replaced by one with the same characteristics whenever the electrodes have burned or the insulation has worn, or every 100 working hours.



CLEAN THE AIR FILTER

IMPORTANT

Cleaning the air filter is essential to guarantee the efficiency and duration of the machine. Do not work with a damaged filter or without a filter, as this could permanently damage the engine. The air filter must be cleaned after every 12 working hours.

Clean the air filter as follows:

- Loosen the knob, remove the cover and the filter element
- Wash the filter with soap and water. Do not use petrol or other solvents.
- Leave the filter to dry in the open air.
- Fit the filter and the cover back on, tightening the knob again

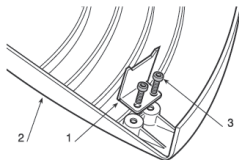


WARNING

Never run the engine without the air filter installed.

SHARPENING THE LINE CUTTING KNIFE

1. Remove the line cutting knife (1) from the guard (2) by unscrewing the screws (3).
2. Fix the line cutting knife in a vice and sharpen it using a flat file, being careful to retain the original cutting angle.
3. Refit the knife on the guard.



CLEANING

WARNING

To avoid serious personal injury, always stop the engine and allow it to cool before cleaning or maintaining the unit.

At the end of each working session, use a small brush to clean the outside of the unit. Do not use strong detergents. Household cleaners that contain aromatic oils such as pine and lemon, and solvents such as kerosene, can damage plastic. Wipe off any moisture with a soft cloth. Carefully make sure that there are no damaged parts, replacing any faulty parts.

STORAGE

- Never store a fueled unit where fumes may reach an open flame or spark.
- Allow the engine to cool before storing.
- Lock up the unit to prevent unauthorised use or damage.
- Store the unit in a dry, well-ventilated area.
- Store the unit out of the reach of children.
- To suspend the attachment from a hook, install the hanger cap onto the attachment. Make sure the release button is securely locked into one of the holes on the hanger cap.

SHORT-TERM STORAGE (1-2 WEEKS)

- Store the unit in a horizontal position. If this is not possible, store the unit vertically with the engine at the top.

LONG-TERM STORAGE

- Remove the fuel cap, tip the unit and drain the fuel into an approved container. Reinstall the fuel cap.
- Start the engine and allow it to run until it stalls. This ensures that all fuel has been drained from the carburetor.
- Allow the engine to cool. Remove the spark plug and put 5 drops of any high-quality motor oil or 2-cycle oil into the cylinder. Pull the starter rope slowly to distribute the oil. Reinstall the spark plug.
- Thoroughly clean the unit and inspect it for any loose or damaged parts. Repair or replace damaged parts and tighten loose screws, nuts or bolts.

PREPARING THE UNIT FOR USE AFTER LONG-TERM STORAGE

- Remove the spark plug. Tip the unit and drain all of the oil from the cylinder into an approved container. Reinstall the spark plug.

NOTE:

Do not use fuel that has been stored for more than 30 days. Dispose of old fuel and oil according to federal, state and local regulations.

TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
The engine will not start	The fuel tank is empty	Fill the fuel tank with properly-mixed fuel
	The priming bulb was not pressed enough	Press the primer bulb 10 times or until fuel is visible
	The engine is flooded	Squeeze the throttle control and pull the starter rope until the engine starts
	The fuel is old (over 30 days) and/or improperly mixed	Drain the fuel tank and add fresh, properly-mixed fuel
	The spark plug is fouled	Clean or replace the spark plug
	The choke lever was not flipped	Refer to starting instructions in this guide
The engine will not idle	The air filter is dirty	Clean or replace the air filter
	The fuel is old (over 30 days) and/or improperly mixed	Drain the fuel tank and add fresh, properly-mixed fuel
	The idle speed is incorrect	Adjust the idle speed
The engine will not accelerate	The fuel is old (over 30 days) and/or improperly mixed	Drain the fuel tank and add fresh, properly-mixed fuel
	The cutting head is bound with grass	Stop the engine and clean the cutting head
	The air filter is dirty	Clean or replace the air filter
The engine lacks power or stalls	The fuel is old (over 30 days) and/or improperly mixed	Drain the fuel tank and add fresh, properly-mixed fuel
	The air filter is dirty	Clean or replace the air filter
	The spark plug is fouled	Clean or replace the spark plug
The cutting head will not advance line	The cutting head is bound with grass	Stop the engine and clean the cutting head
	The cutting head is out of line	Refill the cutting head with new line
	The inner reel is bound up	Rewind the line
	The cutting head is dirty	Clean the inner reel and outer spool
	The line is welded	Open the cutting head and remove the welded section
	The line is twisted	Rewind the line
	Not enough line is extended	Stop the unit, push the bump knob and pull the line until 4 inches (102 mm) is outside of the cutting head
The cutting line advances uncontrollably	There is oil, cleaner or lubricant in the cutting head	Clean and thoroughly dry the cutting head

WARRANTY

Subject to the following conditions, this unit is covered by a comprehensive two-year warranty.

The unit is designed for domestic purposes only, issues and faults due to commercial use may not be covered by warranty. The warranty covers all manufacturing faults but excludes normal wear and tear, misuse, neglect, accidental damage or defects arising from failure to comply with instructions as outlined in this owners manual. Only genuine spare parts can be used for repairs and this must be carried out by an authorised LawnMaster Service Dealer to maintain warranty.

Warranty does not cover the cost of transportation of any part(s) but does cover the labour/parts cost incurred in repairing or replacing any defective part(s) consequential or special damages and / or expenses resulting from any defect.

If the unit requires further repairs or services please visit www.lawnmaster.co.nz to find your local LawnMaster dealer.

For all other enquiries contact **Steelfort Customer Services +64 6 350 1350**

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