

Lawn trimmers used incorrectly by most

String or fishing line trimmers, whether electric or gas powered, are used by gardeners to trim around lawns, flower beds and individual trees and shrubs in gardens both large and small. Most people, including professionals, use them incorrectly.

For years garden communicators have been advising that during the summer months at least, lawn mowers should be set high so the grass is at least 5 centimetres or two inches high after the cutting is done. This is not only a strong deterrent to weeds, it also helps drought-proof a lawn.

While some gardeners have caught on to this technique with the lawn mower, the same cannot be said about string trimmers. According to the Canadian Garden Council, most home gardeners as well as professionals, use these machines to cut the grass around the lawn edges and flower beds, and at the base of trees to within a millimetre of its life. Often these closely cut edges burn brown due to scalping.

But, it's around trees that the Canadian Garden Council is emphasizing. Use of any type of string trimmer around any young or newly-planted trees, and even

around some thinner-bark mature trees (such as honey-locusts) can cause severe damage to the bark. This damage can be so bad that in just a couple of years the tree or trees go into demise, and die. It is most important, therefore, absolutely not have the fast spinning cord of any fishing line or string trimmer touch the bark of any tree.

The best way to prevent this is to cut just a small circle of sod away from the base of each tree, and trim that edge rather than around the bark of the trees themselves. The results of weekly bombardment of thin tree bark by string trimmers should not be under-emphasized as many gardeners do. Once you notice damage, it's usually too late, as the bruising is around the entire circumference.

Damage to the bark itself while not good, is NOT the cause of death to the trees. What does cause a quick death is damage to the xylem and phloem tissues through which the trees conduct water up and down the trunk. Without these vessels, always located just below the bark surface, the trees are unable to survive. The damage from string trimmers amounts to the same as can be caused by rabbits chewing around the bark of newly planted trees during

the winter. And, the results are the same too - death of the trees.

As mention, older, thin-barked trees too can be affected, as can mature trees with thick bark. Urban arborists have often witnessed semi-mature maples or other thick-bark trees severely damaged by regular use of a string trimmer. The Canadian Garden Council urges you to keep the apparently harmless string

trimmers away from your trees. The same applies to their use for trimming the edge of your lawn, along sidewalks or garden beds. While you'll not likely kill the turf, you certainly will scalp it, which means it will need additional moisture just to keep it green, and there will be a greater chance of crabgrass and/or broadleaf weeds gaining a foothold in that part of the lawn.

As with all other tools, the string trimmer can be a great work-saving aid to gardeners. But, used incorrectly, it can also cause a great deal of damage. And, do not necessarily be guided by how you see the tool being used by professional gardeners. Many such companies, or individuals are not aware of the damage they can cause with these tools.

SAVE 20%
On Home Improvements



Halton Builders/Renovators (GOV. LIC. B3148)
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION/PROJECT MANAGEMENT/CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
P. O. Box 297, Acton, Ontario L7J 2M4
(519)853-3401

**NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL
JUST ONE CALL DOES IT ALL**

- Complete renovations
- Guaranteed services
- Your home deserves the best
- All work done by highly skilled professionals
- Quality material
- Additions
- Family room
- Rec. rooms
- Attics
- Roofing
- Gutters
- General repairs
- Driveways
- Garages
- Inground Swimming Pools
- Dormers
- Stone veneer
- Kitchens - expert installation
- Bathrooms

TRUST YOUR HOME TO AN EXPERT!

ATTICS 	ROOFING 	CUSTOM HOMES AND ADDITIONS
VINYL SIDING SOFFIT & FACIA CUT DOWN ON MAINTENANCE COSTS, GET OUR 20 YEAR TRANSFERABLE LOW GUARANTEE. PRICE	ADDITIONS Let us erect a 9x12 room addition on your present foundation. Sale price includes complete outside finish of siding, guaranteed bonded roofing, 2 aluminum sliding windows inside, we'll install wood paneling, ceiling tile and floor tile.	We are NOW Scheduling work for the Spring & Summer.

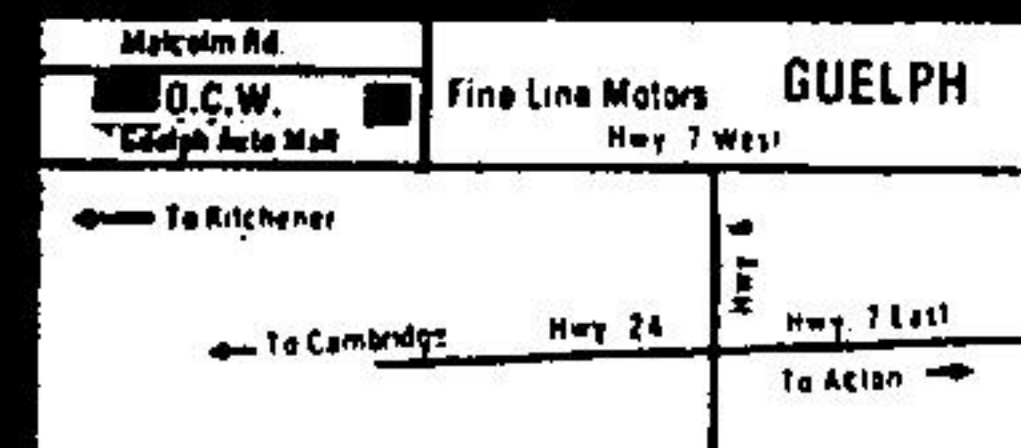
HALTON BUILDERS & RENOVATORS
CALL NOW — 853-3401

OPEN SUNDAY GIGANTIC FURNITURE SALE 11 - 5 p.m. ONTARIO CHESTERFIELD WHOLESALE

BEHIND GUELPH AUTO MALL
120-126 MALCOLM RD. 763-4477

CASH 'N CARRY PRICES
ON ALL SALE ITEMS.

MON.-FRI. 9-9 SAT. 9-7
VISA • MC • FINANCING



— 6 HOURS ONLY —

FREE DELIVERY LAYAWAY

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES SATISFACTION