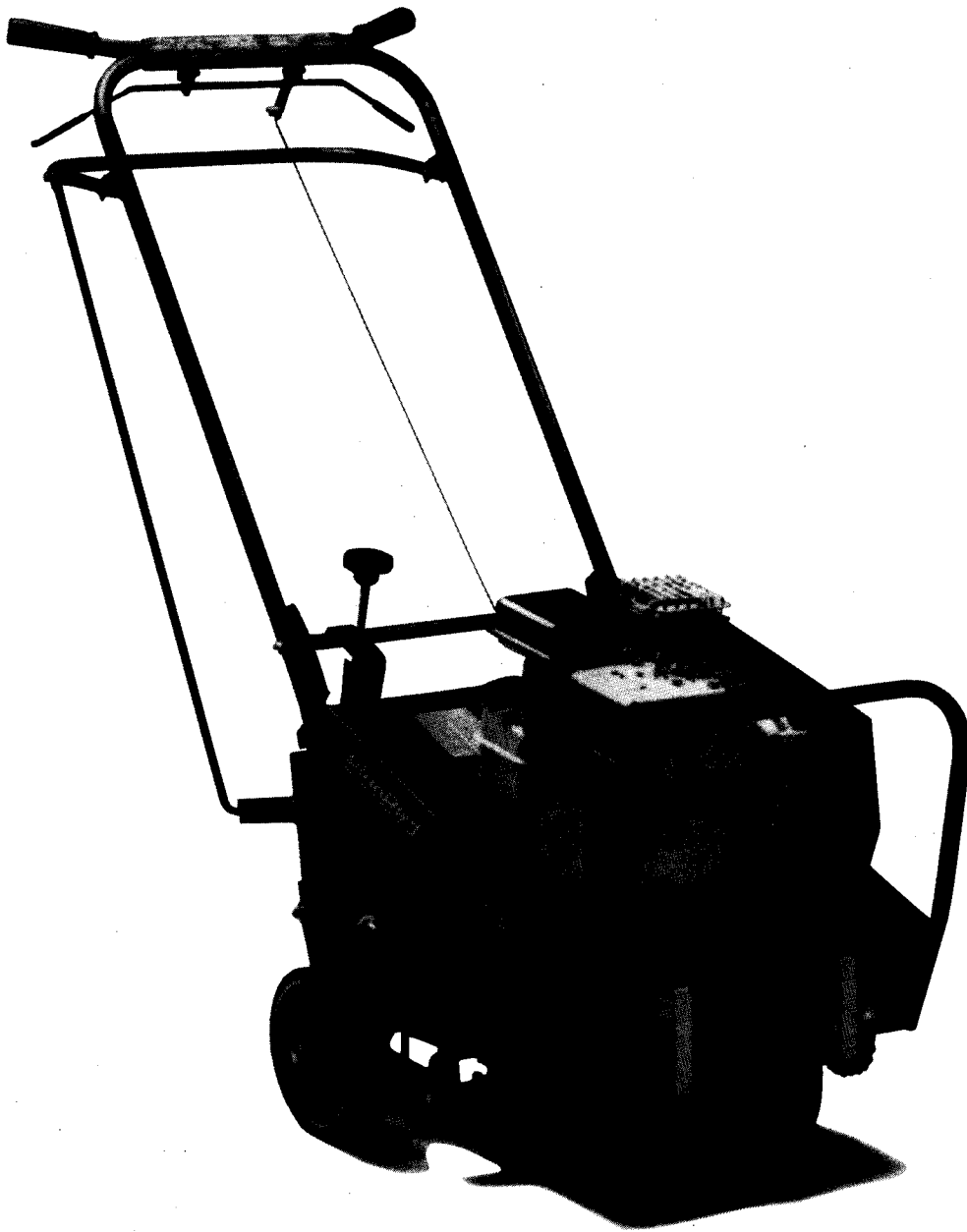


Lawn Aerators

OPERATOR'S AND PARTS MANUAL



MODELS
424 AND 742



Operator's Guide

MODEL 742 - FEATURES AND CONTROLS

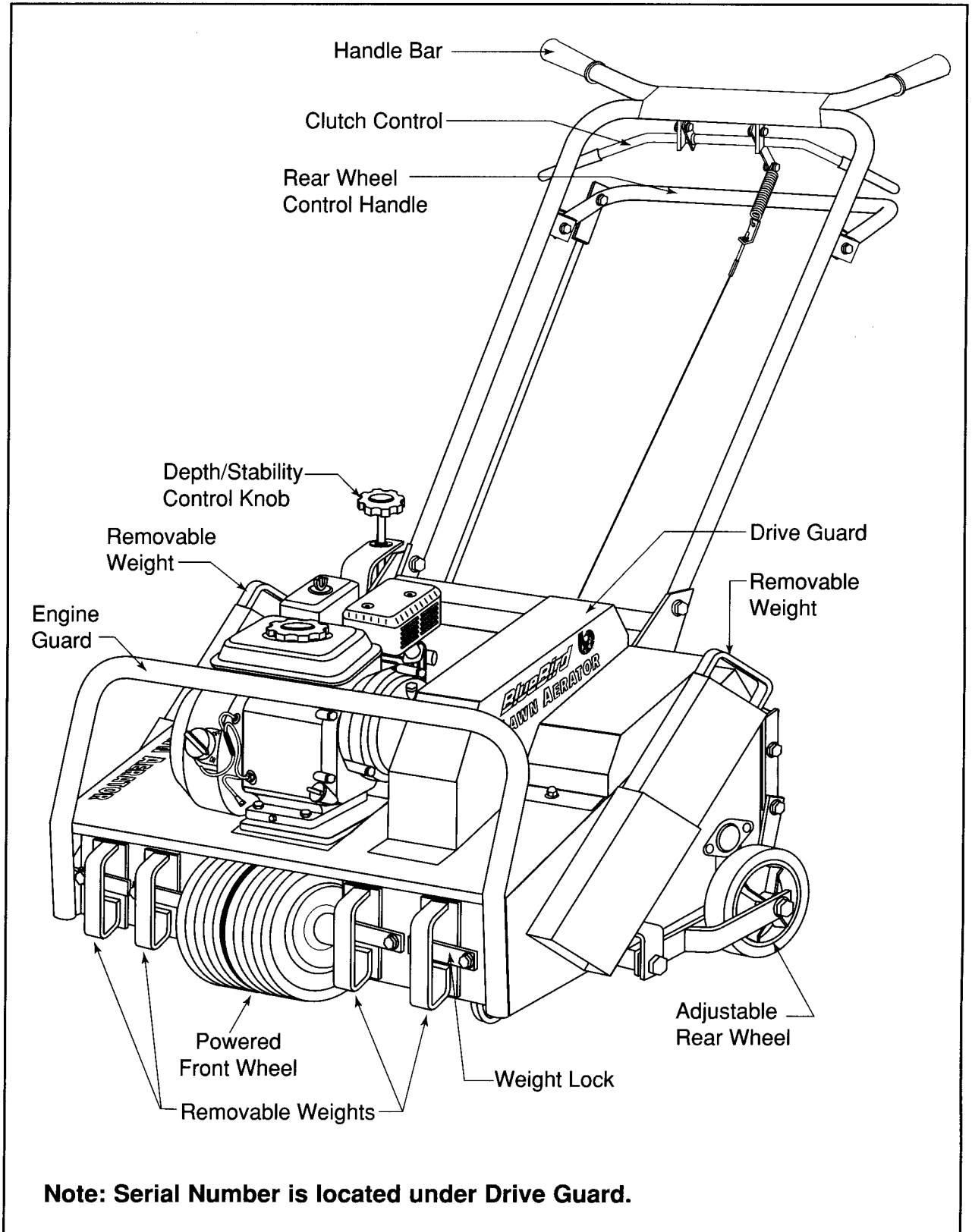





Figure 2

GENERAL INFORMATION

This manual will assist you in the safe operation and proper maintenance of your BlueBird equipment. Read it thoroughly before attempting to operate the machine. Do not hesitate to call your dealer or BlueBird if additional information is required.

The following safety symbols are used throughout the manual to alert you to information about unsafe actions or situations:

-  **DANGER** indicates immediate hazards that may result in severe injury or death.
-  **WARNING** indicates unsafe actions or situations that may cause severe injury, death and/or major equipment or property damage.
-  **CAUTION** indicates unsafe actions or situations that may cause injury, and/or minor equipment or property damage.

This equipment should not be modified without the manufacturer's prior written authorization. Doing so without our written permission may not only affect the equipment's performance and durability, but also create safety hazards for the operator and the surroundings. Warranty will be void if changes are made to the equipment without the manufacturer's prior written authorization.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

DO:

- Read all maintenance and service instructions before attempting work
- Read engine manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions
- Inspect lawn to be aerated and remove rocks, wire, string and other objects that might present a hazard before starting
- Identify and mark all ground objects to be avoided, such as sprinkler heads, stakes, water valves, clothes line anchors, etc.
- This machine was designed for lawn aeration only
- Keep unsupervised children away from the equipment
- Make sure that removable weights are securely latched in position while operating the aerator
- Adopt safe lifting and moving techniques when loading/unloading and moving the equipment
- Make sure all decals are in place

DO NOT:

- Do not service while running
- Do not use on any surface other than grass
- Do not operate on slopes exceeding 35% grade
- Do not place hands or feet near moving or rotating parts
- Do not attempt to lift the equipment alone
- Do not run engine in an unventilated space
- Do not run engine while servicing. Remove spark plug wire before commencing service
- Do not smoke or allow open flames or sparks near unit, and always stop the engine when refueling
- Do not remove guards when operating
- Do not modify this equipment
- Do not use this equipment for purposes other than intended, i.e. lawn aeration

Operating Instructions

AERATION TIPS

Should I water before aerating?

Best aerating condition is a soft and moist ground. If you are unsure of the ground conditions such as in a soil with a high clay content, a simple test will determine whether it is necessary to water before aerating. Using a garden hand spade or a large screw driver, you should be able to drive the tool in the ground 2 to 3 inches with little effort. If you are unable to do so, then watering the lawn a day before aerating is necessary.

When should I use the removable weights?

Soil conditions will dictate whether extra machine weight is needed for effective coring action. The weights are provided to give you added control, and greater tine penetration.

BEFORE YOU START

1. Make sure that engine oil is at engine manufacturer's recommended level (refer to engine manual). Be sure gear reduction oil is at engine manufacturer's level.
2. With the folding handle in its operating position, lock the handle cam lock (Model 424 only).
3. Rear wheel control handle must be pulled up so rear wheels are all the way down.
4. If weights are needed, insert and lock in place.
5. Be sure handle is properly mounted.
- 1 CAUTION: Be sure clutch cable is routed properly.
6. Test clutch handle to insure clutch spring releases freely.
7. The engine top speed is preset by the engine manufacturer. Consult the engine manufacturer's manual for directions to adjust the governor and carburetor if speed is not within correct range.

AERATING

1. Start engine and adjust throttle setting to provide a comfortable walking speed and maintain control of the equipment at all times.
 2. Adjust depth control knob (see figure 1 or 2) to desired depth. Coring depth decreases by turning the knob clockwise. Note that by raising the rear wheels all the way up (to obtain maximum coring depth) you will reduce the unit's stability but increase length of core.
 3. Push down the rear wheel control handle to lower aerating tines into the ground (rear wheels will rise).
 4. Push down on handle bar, for better tine penetration and maneuverability (front wheel will rise).
 5. Engage clutch control.
 6. Adjust engine throttle setting, if needed, for comfortable speed.
 7. To stop, release clutch control.
- 1 CAUTION: Never cross hard objects or surfaces (sidewalks, driveways, stepping stones, etc.) with tines down.

Operating Instructions (continued)

REAR WHEEL ADJUSTMENT

The rear wheel Depth/Stability Control Knob (see figure 6) allows adjustment for more stability (and maneuverability) by turning knob clockwise. Adjusting for more depth by turning knob counter-clockwise determines the length of the cores pulled in the following ways:

- (A) The rear wheels can be adjusted to the level you desire so you can control the penetration of the tines to within a "fraction of an inch." The length of the cores pulled can be controlled accordingly.
- (B) With the rear wheels adjusted to the full up position, you will obtain maximum tine penetration. Pushing down on the machine's handle bars will put all the weight of the machine on the tines. In this configuration you will pull the longest cores. (Front wheel will rise).

NOTE: Adjusting for more stability will shorten the length of the cores you pull. You will gain greater side-to-side stability (See below "Operating on Hills." Adjustments for greater stability will also improve maneuverability during aeration.



Figure 6
Depth/Stability Control Knob

TURNING AND MANEUVERING THE AERATOR

Gradual maneuvering while aerating can be accomplished by simply guiding the machine. We recommend that you adjust your engine's speed control to allow for a comfortable walking speed. This will also help you maintain complete control while working in tight spaces. Adjusting for more stability (with the rear wheels lowered, reducing tine penetration) will make turning easier.

When reversing direction or making sharp turns, two methods of turning can be used. Select the safest and most comfortable method for the conditions you face:

- (A) Release clutch control handle, pull up rear wheel control handle, then pivot machine on rear wheels to turn.
- (B) Release clutch control handle, lift handle bar and pivot machine on front wheel.

! Warning: This method is not recommended when operating on hills. (See next section).

OPERATING ON HILLS

! WARNING - DO NOT OPERATE ON HILLS EXCEEDING 35% GRADE.

This unit is not designed to be used on steep slopes. Be aware that when operating on hills the tilt of the aerator will cause the machine's center of gravity to shift to the downhill side of the machine. Under these circumstances, you may experience:

- (A) The need to exert a greater effort to steer and maintain the balance of the machine.
- (B) Uneven tine penetration, when operating across a hill. Due to the shifted center of gravity the downhill tines will penetrate to the maximum depth, while uphill tines may not.

! WARNING: In extreme situations (very steep hills) the machine may be so unbalanced, that it may present the danger of rolling over.

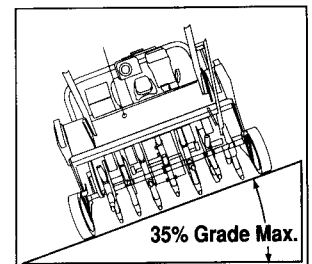


Figure 7
35% Grade

When operating on hills, you may consider the following:

- (A) Operate the machine up and down the hills rather than across them.
- (B) Use the rear wheel depth/stability control knob to set the rear wheels for extra stability. This can be a great benefit when you do choose to run the aerator across a hill. An added benefit of using the rear wheel depth control when aerating across a hill is that you will improve the consistency of the cores pulled from the uphill tines when compared to those pulled by the downhill tines.
- (C) Removing the downhill weight to reduce roll-over risk and maintain consistent core plugs length (on 742 only). See Figure 8.
- (D) Remove remaining weight from downhill side to uphill side after each pass when operating across hills.

! WARNING: Never disengage tines from ground when travelling up or down hill. Only disengage on flat surface.



Figure 8
Remove Downhill Weight