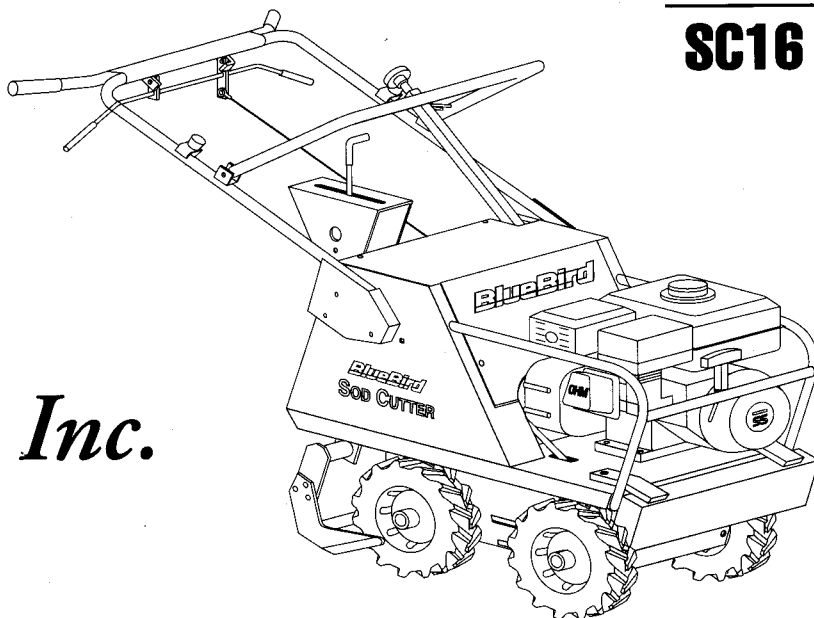


1**Sod Cutter
Operator's Manual****Model
SC16****BlueBird
International, Inc.**2778 South Tejon Street
Englewood, CO 80110 USA**2****Table of Contents**

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3**Specifications**

	U.S.	Metric
Engine - Honda:	5.5 hp	3.8 kw
Net Weight:	328 lbs.	149 kg
Shipping Weight:	360 lbs	164 kg
Width:	24 in	61 cm
Height:	36 in	91 cm
Length:	54 in	137 cm
Cutting Depth (max):	2.5 in	6.3 cm
Cutting Width:	16 in	41 cm











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General Operating Instructions







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Warnings

WARNING: DO NOT 

-  Do not cut at high transport speeds.
-  Do not use on any other 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 start in gear.**
-  Do not run engine in an unventilated space.
-  Do not shift with throttle engaged.
-  Do not run engine while servicing. Remove spark plug wire before servicing.
-  Do not remove guards when operating.
-  Do not lift this 330lb. machine.

WARNING: DO 

-  Read all maintenance and service instructions before attempting work.
-  **Start only with shift lever in neutral.**
-  Follow engine manufacturer operating and maintenance instructions.
-  Inspect area to be cut and remove rocks, wire, string and other objects that might present hazard before starting.
-  Identify and mark all in ground objects to be avoided, such as sprinkler heads, stakes, water valves, clothes line anchors, etc.
-  This machine was designed for sod cutting only. It is not intended for any other use.

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Operator's Tips

- To engage reverse gear, push the machine fore and aft while pulling the shift lever.
- Stop before shifting gears.
- Cut going down hill on unlevel ground.
- End cuts by pushing the blade engagement lever forward while still holding the throttle to cut the end of the sod strip as the blade rises.
- Soil conditions will affect cutting depth. Setting adjustments may be required as you move from hard soil to soft or moist soil conditions.
- Turn the sod cutter by pushing down on the handlebar to do "a wheelie," then turn using the throttle.
- Do not attempt sharp turns while cutting.
- On very hard patches, push down on the handles to increase cut depth.
- Should I water before cutting?


It is usually not necessary to water before cutting. In extreme conditions, such as clay soil that is very compacted, a simple test as follows will determine if you need to water before cutting. Use a garden hand spade, weed tool, or even a large screwdriver to test the ground's hardness. You should be able to push the tool into the ground 2 to 3 inches with little effort. If you are unable to do so, then watering may be advisable. Watering the day before should give sufficient time for the soil to absorb the moisture. Use your hand tool to gauge the effectiveness of your watering. Allow the grass to dry before cutting to provide adequate traction for sod cutting.

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Operating on Hills

 **Warning - Do NOT operate on hills exceeding 35% grade.**

Please be aware that when operating on hills, you may experience:

- (A) The need to exert greater effort to steer and maintain the balance of the machine.
- (B) Uneven cutting depth, when operating across a hill. The shifted center of gravity may cause the downhill side of the blade to penetrate to the maximum depth, while the uphill side may not.
-  (C) **Warning** - On hills (exceeding 35% grade) the machine may be so unbalanced, that it may present a danger of rolling over!

With these factors in mind, you may find it more effective to:

- Operate the machine cutting down the hills rather than across them. You will get even cutting depth, and maintain stability.
- Avoid hill side turns; you may prefer to back up hills in reverse gear, then cut, going down.

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Before You Start

- Be sure engine oil is at engine manufacturer's recommended level. (Refer to engine manufacturer's manual.)
- Read and understand this manual.
- Put the sod cutter into neutral before starting.
- Disengage the blade from the ground before starting.

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Transporting

- Push the blade engagement lever forward to raise the blade.
- Select the desired gear (slow-fast-reverse).
- Pull the throttle while maintaining a firm grip on the handlebar.
- Turn by pushing down on the handlebar to do "a wheelie," then turn.
- Load into truck or trailer by driving up ramps in low gear. **DO NOT LIFT!** This 330lb machine is not intended to be lifted by hand.

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Sod Cutting

See Figure - Section 4

1. Position the sod cutter to your starting point with the blade out of the ground.
2. Pull the blade engagement lever toward you with one hand while lifting the handlebar with the other hand.
3. Place the shift lever in slow gear (turtle icon).
4. Pull the throttle while maintaining a slight down pressure on the handlebar and cut a short distance, then stop. Put shift lever in neutral.
5. Lift up the edge of the sod to check the cut depth.
6. To change the depth, push the blade engagement lever forward and turn the depth adjust knob clockwise for less depth, or, counter-clockwise for more depth.
7. Repeat steps 2 through 6 as necessary.
8. Once depth is set, cut in straight passes and end by pushing the blade engagement lever forward while holding the throttle to cut the end of the sod strip as you exit the ground.

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Safety & Maintenance

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Safety

CAUTION

Any modifications or additions to this equipment without written authorization from the manufacturer, will void all manufacturer's warranties.



DO NOT operate this machine without first reading owner's manual.

CAUTION

BlueBird parts have been designed and specified to meet commercial operating standards for strength and durability. For reliability and preservation of design safety standards, replacements should only be made with genuine BlueBird parts or material of equivalent type and strength.

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Engine Service and Warranty

Contact your nearest engine manufacturer's authorized servicing dealer for engine service and warranty questions.

Follow the engine manufacturer's maintenance instructions. Should any malfunction occur with the engine during the warranty period, take it to an Authorized Service Dealer. **DO NOT** tear down the engine, as this may void the Engine Manufacturer's Warranty.

Two-Minute Warning

Sod Cutters may be tipped on their engine guard for cleaning and access for no more than 2 minutes. Engine damage may result from gasoline draining into the crankcase if prolonged. See engine manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions.