

Section 4

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

CONTROL IDENTIFICATION AND FUNCTION

Before operating machine, become familiar with the controls and general operation of the BedShaper®. Know the location, purpose and operation of the blade engagement lever, speed control, engine shut off/throttle.

The lift lever is used to raise the blade arm from the ground for transport. Pulling the lever towards the operator raises the blade arm to the transport position. The spring-loaded latch keeps the blade in the transport position. Releasing the latch and easing the lever forward will set the blade in the ground.

The operating speed control is used to propel the machine in forward and reverse. See "STARTING OPERATION" for details.

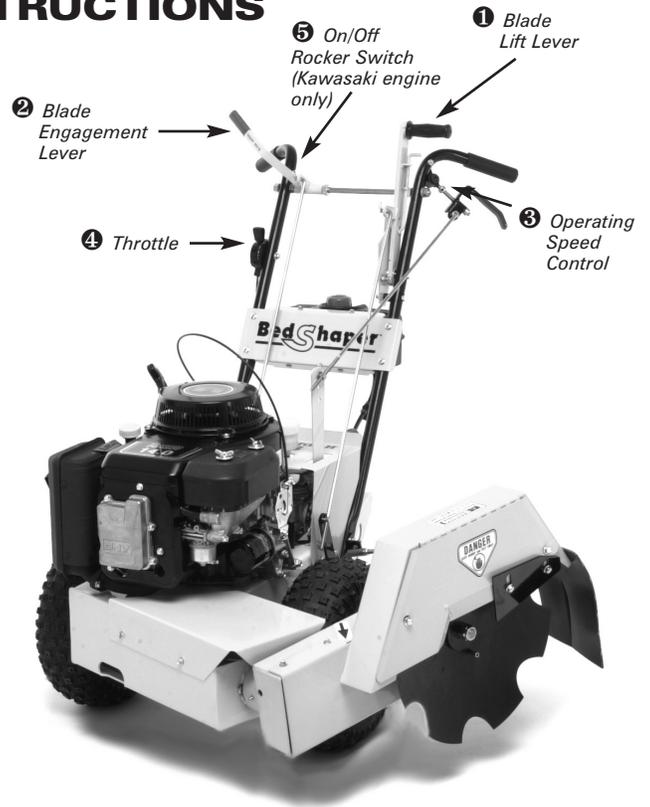


Photo 4-1

ADJUSTING WORKING DEPTH

 **Caution**
Engine must be stopped
before adjusting working depth.

Blade depth adjustment is controlled by a gauge wheel (see Photo 4-2). To adjust to a different cutting depth, lift blade arm, remove pin on gauge wheel, adjust to desired height. Replace pin.

The height of the BedShaper® can be adjusted from 1" to 4.5" (2.5 to 11.4 cm). As a starting point, with the blade resting on a hard surface, adjust the gauge wheel so it is 2" (5.1 cm) above the hard surface. Further adjustments can be made to accommodate the desired performance.

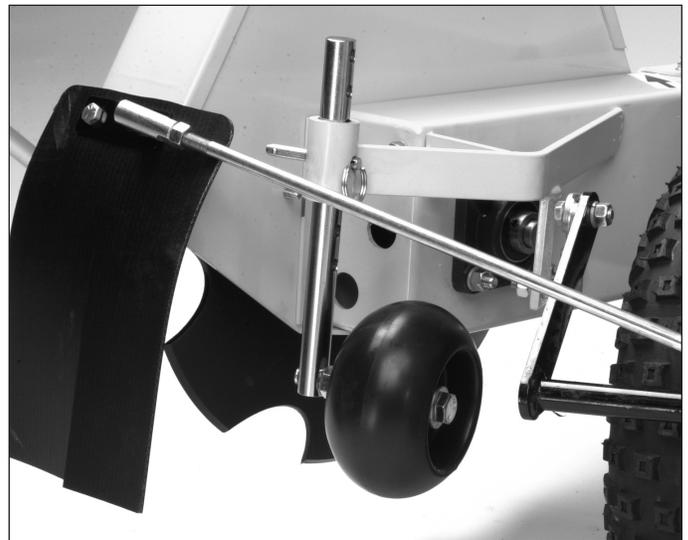


Photo 4-2

STARTING OPERATION

1. Move throttle to choke position. (See Photo 4-1 ④)
2. Start engine. See engine operator's manual shipped with your machine.
3. Before engaging blade be sure all bystanders, especially children and pets, are clear of operating area.
4. Blade should be out of the ground, in transport position.
5. Set engine speed about half throttle. Refer to the engine operator's manual which came with your BedShaper®.
6. Engage blade lever. (See Photo 4-1 ②)
7. Adjust engine speed to full throttle.
8. Smoothly push blade lift lever forward to lower blade into the ground.
9. Engage operating speed control smoothly to propel machine forward. (See Photo 4-1 ③)
10. Operating speed is achieved by sliding the control handle forward. Then slowly engage (squeeze) the lever as shown in Photo 4-3.



Photo 4-3

11. Transport speed is achieved by sliding the control handle rearward. Then slowly engage (squeeze) the lever as shown in Photo 4-4.



Photo 4-4

12. Reverse is achieved by pushing the control handle forward (away from your body), and should only be used with the blade disengaged.

Important: Do not override blade engagement lever spring loaded safety shutoff.

Caution

Observe conditions behind you before moving the machine in reverse, making sure you have a clear path to walk backwards into. Engage lever in reverse slowly to maintain control over the machine at all times.

STOPPING OPERATION

1. Release operating speed control lever (See Photo 4-1 ③) to stop forward travel.
2. Pull back on blade lift lever (See Photo 4-1 ①).
3. Release blade engage lever (See Photo 4-1 ②).
4. Reduce engine speed to an idle.
5. Press On/Off toggle switch to off position if equipped, or move throttle lever to off position to shut off engine. (See Photo 4-1 ⑤)

Caution

Always remove spark plug wire when leaving machine unattended. This prevents children and unauthorized operators from starting and operating unit.

Caution

If blade strikes a stationary object while operating, disengage blade engagement lever immediately. Stop engine. Disconnect spark plug wire, and open blade shield. Inspect machine thoroughly for damage. Make sure that blade is securely tightened.

 **Caution**

Never operate the machine at transport speed or in reverse with the blade engaged or serious bodily injury or machine damage could occur.

TIPS FOR BEST BED SHAPING RESULTS

Blade Life: Conditions will vary, but blade life will be about 10 hours of operation. Wear will be noticeable on the notches of the blade. The sharper and deeper the notches, the better the cut. Blade speed and soil conditions affect wear. Replace the blade when worn. **Do not attempt to sharpen or recut notches. This may result in operator injury.**

Soil Conditions: Bed shaping will require the least amount of time, power and blade wear when the soil is damp. Pre-wetting the soil may be an option. The sod will cut cleaner and the remaining sod strip will stay intact for easier cleanup if damp.

Pre-Marking: Pre-mark the area to be shaped with marking paint or lime to ensure a consistent straight or curved edge. Never use solid objects or string as markers as these items may be thrown by the blade or wrap around the blade shaft.

Multiple Passes and Cutting Width: When establishing a new bed or redesigning an existing bed, it is recommended that multiple passes be made. To facilitate removal of sod strips, the passes should be less than 3" (7.6 cm) in width.

Speed: A slow walking pace is good for safe operation and accuracy, while maintaining efficiency.

Buried Hazards: be constantly aware of the possibility of buried hazards. Check with property owners about possible hazards **before** using the BedShaper®. A little time spent investigating an area may prevent costly mistakes.

Cutting New Beds: First, mark area to show the new bed outline. Then make first cut approximately 1" (2.5 cm) inside the outer border. Operate unit in counter clockwise direction, widening radius 3" (7.6 cm) in each rotation until desired bed size is achieved.

Clogging: If clogging occurs, disengage the blade engagement lever. Stop engine, make sure that all moving parts have come to a stop. Disconnect spark plug wire. Raise blade arm lift lever. Remove the two bolts which hold the hinged blade shield in place. Swing shield into servicing position.

 **Danger**

If unclogging is required, use a dowel or other such object to unclog the blade and shield. When finished unclogging, swing shield back into place and fasten securely with bolts. Check blade nut to insure it is tight.

 **Danger**

Never attempt to operate machine without blade shield securely fastened.

 **Caution**

Hot Blade: allow blade to cool before servicing. Blade may be hot enough to cause burns.