

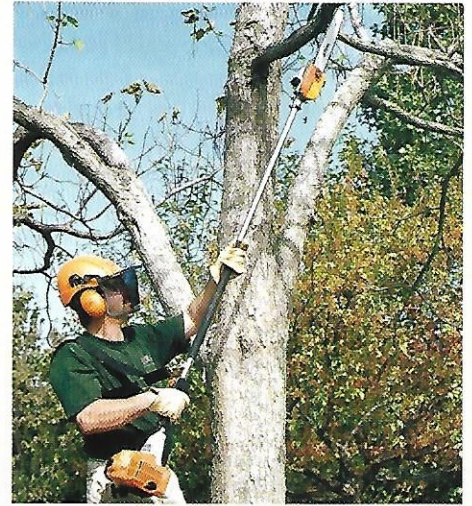
Mower Blades



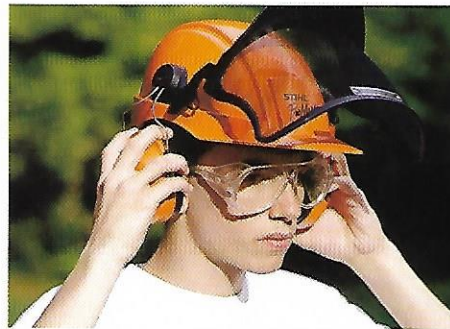
To sharpen rotary mower blades with a file, first disconnect the engine's spark plug before removing the blade. While sharpening, preserve the original angle of the sharpened edge as you stroke the file across it. File in one direction only—away from you. After you've sharpened each blade end, check the blade balance by slipping the center hole over a nail protruding from the wall. If the blade dips to one side or another, file away some more metal from that end.

Chain Saws

A sharp chain saw blade cuts through logs effortlessly, like a knife through soft butter, while a dull one can keep you bent over a log for what seems like an eternity just to make one cut. Dirt and grit can dull a chain in a matter of seconds—sometimes the stuff sticks to the bark of a fallen tree, but more often than not accidental contact with the ground is what takes the edge off. When a tree limb is down flat on the ground, it can be hard to avoid, though. That's one reason why most cutters keep a spare sharpened chain handy. A log lifter is a safe and easy way to pick up a tree trunk a few inches off the ground—just enough to keep the chain saw blade from hitting dirt.



For trimming high branches, a power pruner is much easier than a pole saw.



Hearing protection, such as this unit with helmet and visor, should always be used when chain sawing.

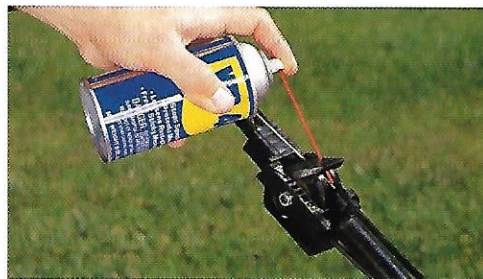


Chain saws with bars over 36 in. long are expensive, and heavy—most people can get by with a 16- to 20-in. bar.

- aluminum can ▶ air filter • engine oil (check whether 2-cycle is required) • lubricating oil • spark plugs



4 Change the spark plugs regularly—you'll need a socket wrench and a deep-well socket to loosen the plug.



5 Controls should be cleaned out and coated with a lubricating oil at the beginning of each season.



6 Check the oil after each use, and top it off whenever necessary. It will keep the engine running smoothly and extend its life.