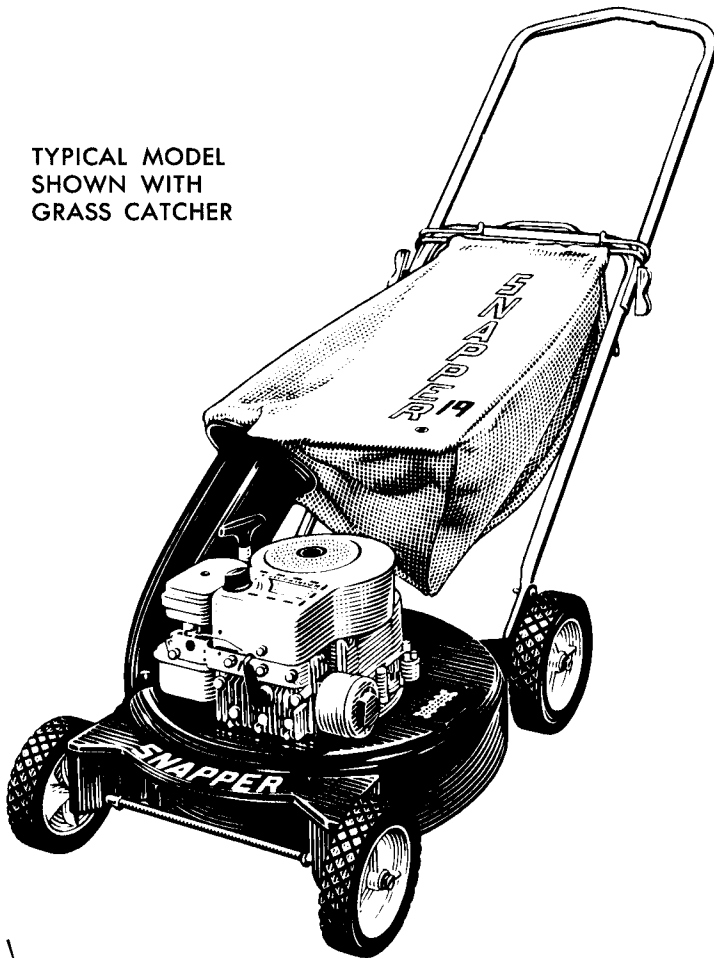


# SNAPPER

## 19" PUSH MOWERS

TYPICAL MODEL  
SHOWN WITH  
GRASS CATCHER



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### THANK YOU FOR BUYING A *SNAPPER*

Your Snapper mower was designed and built with utmost care to give you long and satisfactory service. Remember that it, like any other mechanical device, can be potentially dangerous if used improperly —use it only for the purpose it was intended and that is to mow your lawn. No accident prevention program can be successful without the wholehearted co-operation of the person who is directly responsible for the operation of the equipment. Study this Operator's Manual carefully to learn the operation of the controls and pay particular attention to all safety precautions. Following these instructions will help you continue to enjoy the trouble-free operation expected of a Snapper.

**McDonough Power Equipment**  
McDonough, GA • 30253



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING:** Failure to comply with the following instructions may result in serious injury to the operator or other persons. The owner of the mower must understand these instructions and, furthermore, must allow only persons who understand these instructions to operate the mower. Any person operating the mower must be of sound mind and body and must not be under the influence of any substance which might impair vision, dexterity, or judgement.

## TRAINING

1. Read this Manual carefully and question your dealer if something is not clear. Should the dealer be unavailable or unable to answer to your satisfaction, write or call our Customer Service Department at the factory. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and proper use of the equipment.
2. Never allow children to operate a power mower.
3. Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children, and pets.

## PREPARATION

1. Never operate mower without proper guards, plates, safety switches, or other safety protective devices in place and properly connected. Inspect to determine that these safety devices are installed properly, are in good repair, and operate properly. If the condition or operation of these devices are questionable, they must be repaired or replaced before using the mower.
2. Thoroughly inspect the area where the mower is to be used and remove all stones, wire, bones and other foreign objects. Also note the location of holes, stumps, and other possible hazards.
3. Do not operate mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial footwear and long pants.
4. Fill gasoline tank before starting engine. Use approved gasoline container. Do not smoke near open gasoline container. Do not fill gasoline tank indoors or when engine is running. Allow engine to cool for at least ten minutes before refilling. Wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting engine. Do not run engine indoors.
5. Never attempt to make a wheel height adjustment while the engine is running.
6. When mowing over rough ground or in tall grass, mower must be set in highest cutting position.
7. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
8. Never operate mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk; never run.

## OPERATION

1. Do not change engine governor settings or overspeed engine.
2. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge area while engine is running.
3. Stop engine when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads, and under any conditions where thrown objects might be a hazard.
4. After striking a foreign object or if mower vibrates abnormally, stop the engine, disconnect and secure spark plug wire. Inspect the mower for any damage and repair the damage.
5. **STOP ENGINE before:** Adjusting cutting height; clearing clogged grass; removing grass bag; placing hands or feet near blade housing or before making any adjustments, repairs or inspections.
6. Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting, make certain blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect and secure spark plug wire away from plug to prevent accidental starting.
7. Stop engine and wait until the blade comes to complete stop before removing the grass bag and/or unclogging adapter.
8. Mow across steep slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise caution when changing directions on slopes. Do not mow excessively steep slopes.

## MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

1. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure mower is in safe operating condition.
2. Never store mower with gasoline in the tank inside of a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
3. To reduce fire hazard keep mower free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.
4. Check grass bag assembly frequently for wear or deterioration. Replace with new bag if loose seams or tears are evident. Replace slider or bag adapter if broken or cracked.
5. Have your mower inspected and serviced each year by an authorized Snapper dealer. Determine if any additional devices are available which might upgrade the safety of your mower.
6. Factory specified Snapper replacement parts must be used to assure adequate protection against injury.

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

This manual covers the recommended operating and service procedures for Snapper 19" push mowers. Models with designation 19300-2 and 19300D-2 have two cycle engines while those designated 19300 and 19300D have 4 cycle engines. The "D" suffix indicates that the mower has the side discharge chute while models without the "D" suffix have the grass catcher bag. Differences are pointed out wherever pertinent. Make sure that every person allowed to operate your mower reads and thoroughly understands the safety instructions on page 2 of this manual and also the instructions in the engine manual furnished with the mower. Refer to the back page of this manual for optional accessories.

## PRESTART CHECKS

Make the following checks and perform the stated services as required before each start-up.

**CHECK** to make sure all guards, grass bag and adapter or side discharge chute are in proper place and securely tightened.

**CHECK** external surfaces of mower and engine and remove any accumulation of dirt, dried grass clippings, etc. Keep space between finned area of cylinder head and top of cutting deck clear and clean at all times.

**CHECK** oil level in engine (if 4 cycle) and add oil of weight and grade specified in engine manual to bring level up to full.

**CHECK** cutting height and readjust to desired height before starting. Refer to CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT section for procedure.

**FILL** fuel tank with clean, fresh gasoline after pushing mower outdoors where fumes can be safely dissipated. On models with 2 cycle engine, mix oil in proper ratio to gasoline before filling. (Refer to engine fuel ratio mixture decal or engine manual for correct mixture).

## OPERATING PROCEDURE

For easier starting, move mower to an area where grass is short enough not to interfere with rotation of the cutting blade. Before starting, (especially for the first time) know how to stop the engine quickly in the event of emergency. To stop the engine, move the throttle control on top of engine into the STOP position. **NOTE:** Your mower is equipped with an interlock to prevent starting if the grass bag adapter or side discharge chute are not properly installed on the mower — check this if engine will not start.

**STARTING-STOPPING:** TO START, move throttle on top of engine into START or CHOKE position, place foot on pad on top of deck and other foot safely away from deck then pull recoil starter handle in quick steady motion until engine starts. On 2-cycle engine move throttle out of CHOKE position into FAST or SLOW speed setting. On 4-cycle engine leave throttle in START - RUN position. While mowing, push at a speed that is comfortable but slow enough to allow even cutting. To STOP, move the throttle control into STOP position.

**MOWING HINTS:** The cutting deck should be level. As a general rule, never cut more than 1/3 off the height of the grass. If you want the grass shorter, wait a few days then recut to the lower height. If cut too short, the grass will use more energy for development of new leaf structure and less for a healthy root system and will be more subject to burning. On the other hand, if allowed to grow too long, the lower portion will be shaded and, as a result will discolor. In dry periods, allow the grass to grow longer than you normally would. Change your mowing pattern from time to time for a smoother cut lawn.

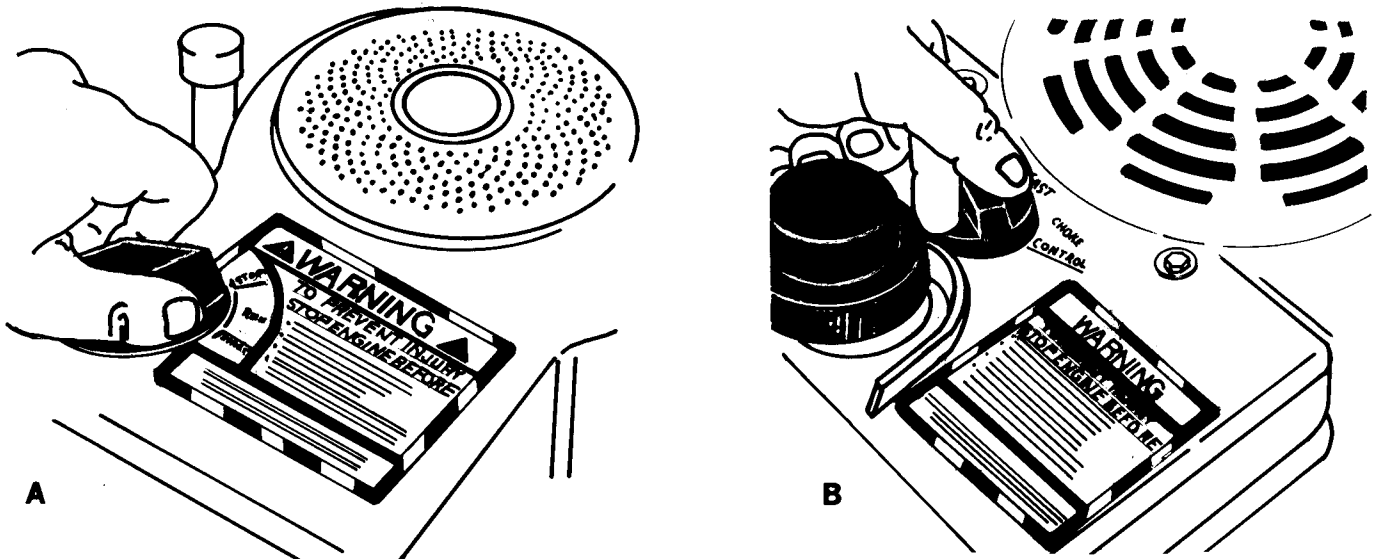


FIGURE 1 — LOCATION OF ENGINE THROTTLE CONTROL (A) 4-CYCLE, (B) 2-CYCLE

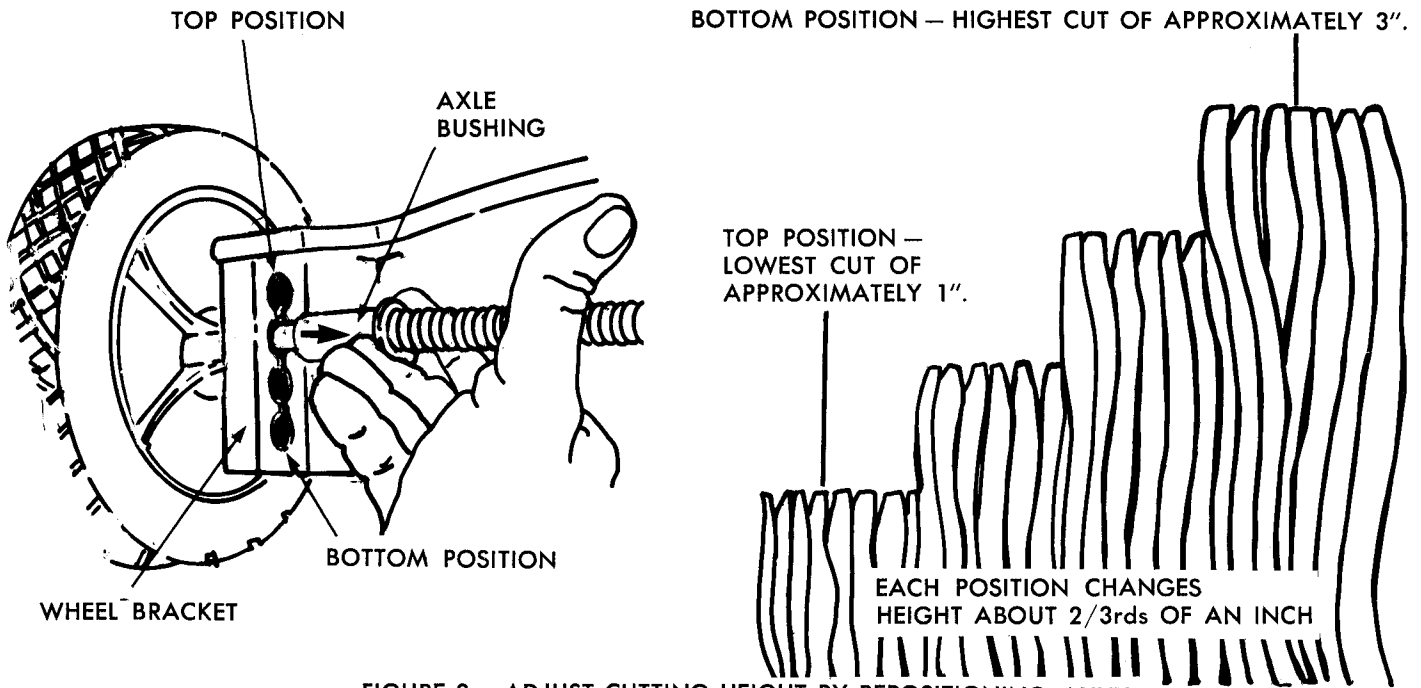


FIGURE 2 — ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT BY REPOSITIONING AXLES

## CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

**WARNING:** To prevent injury, always STOP ENGINE before changing cutting height.

Positioning the axles in the lowest of the four adjustment positions in the wheel brackets raises the cutting deck to the highest cutting height which is about 3". The top position provides the lowest cut of about 1". Repositioning into the next height of cut position changes cutting height about 2/3rds of an inch.

Readjust cutting height with engine shut off as follows: To reposition front axle, push down on mower handles to raise front wheels off the ground then pull in on one of the spring loaded bushings until it clears the bracket, move to the desired height of cut position and release the bushing. Repeat procedure on bushing on other side of axle. When repositioning rear axle, lift handles to raise one of the rear wheels off ground then change axle position using same procedure as used on front axle. Repeat same procedure on other rear wheel. NOTE: Make sure axle bushings are firmly engaged and in the same height of cut position in the brackets on both sides of axle.

## EMPTYING GRASS CATCHER BAG

On mowers equipped with the grass catcher bag, stop engine when bag becomes full and empty contents as follows: When full, bag cannot be lifted between handles. Pull top support wire toward rear of machine until wire is free of middle handle, then slide bag off adapter at front, place bag on ground and push mower away from bag. To empty, pull the slider off the underside of bag and shake bag until clippings have fallen out through opening. Before reinstalling the bag on mower, fold edges into "Z" shape, align edges and hold together, then push slider over the edges. Make sure all edges are inside the slider. To prolong the life of the grass bag, always empty it after mowing is completed and before placing the mower in storage. Never operate mower without bag and bag adapter in place — if bagging is not required, install the side discharge chute in place of the bag and adapter.

## HANDLE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Handle height is adjustable to any point within a range of about five inches to provide the most comfortable position for you. With the engine stopped, set the cutting height in the position where you anticipate doing most of your mowing then loosen the two nuts securing the handles to the wheel brackets, move the handle to the desired position and securely tighten the two nuts.

## FOLDING HANDLES

The handles of your mower can be folded for storage or for transporting in a confined space such as the trunk of your car. To fold, loosen the two wing nuts securing the upper to the lower handle then swing upper handle down until it touches the underside of the lower handles. Next loosen (but do not completely remove) the cap-screws securing the lower handles to both rear wheel brackets. Press lower segment of both handles inward until ends clear the lower pivot on both sides then swing handles forward over engine and mower. NOTE: The grass bag and adapter on mowers so equipped must be removed from the cutting deck to completely fold handles. The side chute does not interfere with folding.

## ADAPTER - SIDE CHUTE CHANGES

**WARNING:** To prevent injury, never operate mower without grass bag and adapter or the side discharge chute in place.

When changing from bagging to side discharge, remove the three wingnuts securing adapter to deck, pry the rear lower edge of the adapter away from the deck until clear then remove adapter. Guide side chute into position over bolt on side of deck then over bolt extending from top of deck ensuring side chute slides under and lifts the interlock. Secure with two wingnuts. Reverse procedure to remove side chute. To install adapter, guide adapter over stud on the rear side of deck, push adapter in from side over stud on top of the deck, then downward until adapter snaps into place over front side stud. NOTE: Flange of adapter must slide between interlock spring and deck to lift interlock contact point off deck. Secure with three wingnuts.

## SERVICE

The mower itself requires very little service, however, it is very important the engine be serviced at the intervals specified in the engine manual furnished with your mower. When performing any service on the mower, always disconnect the spark plug wire from the spark plug to prevent unintentional starting. When tipping the mower to work on the underside, always tilt with spark plug up to prevent flooding the engine with gasoline or oil which would cause hard starting after servicing. NOTE: If engine will not start, check bag adapter or side chute to determine that either item is properly positioned on mower.

## SERVICE ASSISTANCE-REPLACEMENT PARTS

To maintain the original quality of your mower, use Genuine Snapper Replacement Parts only. To obtain the correct part for your particular mower, always specify model and serial number as found on name plate. Contact your Snapper Dealer for parts and service assistance. We recommend returning your mower to an authorized Snapper Dealer once each year for inspection and addition of any new devices which might upgrade the safety of your mower. For the nearest Snapper Dealer, check the Yellow Pages under the heading LAWN MOWERS. For engine parts and service, look for the engine manufacturer's dealers under the heading ENGINES—gasoline.

## DECK SERVICE

To prolong the life and efficiency of your mower, keep the underside of deck clean and free of accumulated grass clippings by washing it down with a hose and/or scraping with a wire brush and scraper. Make sure this is done at the end of the cutting season before placing the mower in storage.

## CUTTING BLADE SERVICE

**CAUTION:** Before checking or doing any work on the blade, disconnect the spark plug wire and secure it away from the plug to prevent unintentional starting.

**CHECK** at frequent intervals to make sure the blade is securely tightened and that it is in good condition.

**REPLACE** blade if badly chipped, bent, out of balance or as soon as a notch starts wearing in the tip between the flat surface and upturned lift as depicted in View B, Figure 3. This type wear pattern occurs more rapidly under sandy soil conditions. **CAUTION:** Never operate the mower with blade worn to the extent shown in View C as the tip could fly off causing personal injury or property damage.

**SHARPEN** blade when the cutting edges become dull if the blade is in otherwise good condition. When dull the grass cut ends will be ragged and usually turn brown soon after mowing. For best results, remove the blade and sharpen it on a grinding wheel at an angle of 22 to 28 degrees. The cutting surface should extend in about 2½" from the tips. Check the blade after sharpening to determine that it is still balanced. It will cause excessive vibration if unbalanced. **BE CAREFUL TO AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF ON SHARP BLADE!**

**INSTALL** sharpened or replacement blade with components in same sequence as removed. The widest part of the cone washer goes next to the underside of blade. Make sure that the turned-up rims in the center of the blade fit over the edges of the blade drive hub when installing. Do not substitute any components here. Tighten the blade retaining capscrew to 15-30 foot pounds torque value.

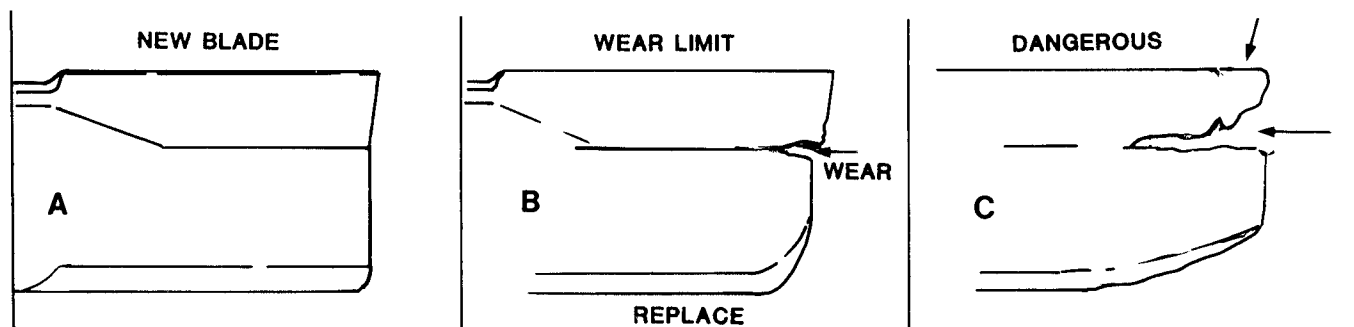


FIGURE 3 — CUTTING BLADE TIP WEAR PATTERNS

## STORAGE PROCEDURE

Take the following steps to prepare your mower for storage at the end of the mowing season. Refer to the engine manual for directions for preserving the engine. With the spark plug wire disconnected from plug and the mower turned with spark plug upward, thoroughly clean underside of deck. Scrape away accumulations of grass with putty knife and/or wire brush first, then wash down with water from a hose. **CAUTION:** Avoid spraying water into exhaust or air intake of engine while washing deck — tape openings closed to prevent this. Clean external surfaces of mower and allow to dry, then lubricate all exposed metal surfaces with a light coat of oil to prevent corrosion. Make sure grass bag is completely emptied to prevent decay and formation of mold inside the bag while in storage. The grass bag may be washed in detergent but allow it to dry thoroughly after washing. Store mower during off season in storage shed or dry area protected from weather.

## POPULAR ACCESSORIES

Depending on how your mower is originally equipped, it can be converted to perform other lawn care duties with the kits described below. These kits are available from your Snapper Dealer.

**SNAPPERIZER KIT:** Converts mower into an outdoor vacuum and shredder to broadcast shredded clippings and leaves with side discharge chute or for bagging with the grass catcher. Order Kit # 6-0450.

**MULCHERIZER KIT:** Converts mower into effective mower/mulcher to cut and chop the grass before blowing clippings directly into the lawn as nutritive mulch. Order Kit # 6-0457.

**SIDE CHUTE KIT:** If your mower is equipped with the grass catcher, it can be quickly converted to side discharge with a side chute kit to broadcast clippings and eliminate bagging whenever desired, and to quickly convert back to bagging operation. Order Kit # 6-0421.

**GRASS CATCHER BAG KIT:** If your mower is equipped with side discharge chute, it can be converted for bagging operation whenever desired with a grass bag kit. Order Kit # 6-0422.

**ZIP KIT:** Includes metal hoop for installing under grass catcher bag to allow dumping clippings and leaves directly into a standard disposable trash bag. One kit fits all size mowers. (#6-0254)

## MANUFACTURER'S 90 DAY LIMITED WARRANTY

For Ninety (90) days from purchase date for a non-commercial user, or for Thirty (30) days from purchase date for a commercial user, McDONOUGH POWER EQUIPMENT, through any factory authorized service dealer, will replace for the original purchaser, free of charge, any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

All transportation cost incurred by the purchaser in submitting material to an authorized service dealer for replacement under this warranty must be borne by the purchaser.

This warranty does not apply to engines and their components, as these items are warranted separately by their manufacturers. Neither does it apply to parts that have been damaged by accident, alteration, abuse, improper lubrication, normal wear, or other cause beyond our control.

There is no other express warranty.

Implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to ninety (90) days from purchase for non-commercial users, and for thirty (30) days from purchase for commercial users and to the extent permitted by law any and all implied warranties are excluded. This is the exclusive remedy. Liabilities for consequential damages under any and all warranties are excluded.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

**WARNING:** Use of replacement parts other than genuine SNAPPER parts may impair the safety of your mower.

**IMPORTANT:** Please fill out the attached Snapper Guarantee Card and mail to:

**McDONOUGH POWER EQUIPMENT, McDONOUGH, GEORGIA 30253**

**McDonough Power Equipment**  
McDonough, GA • 30253

