

4 STROKE PETROL LAWN MOWER

RL501A
INSTRUCTION MANUAL



GMC[®]

GLOBAL MACHINERY COMPANY

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Warranty Mowers (excludes Briggs & Stratton engines)

Whilst every effort is made to ensure your complete satisfaction with this product, occasionally, due to the mass manufacturing techniques, a product may not live up to our required level of performance and you may need the assistance of our Customer Service Department.

This product is warranted for a 6-month period for home domestic use from the date of the original purchase. If found to be defective in materials or workmanship, the product or the offending faulty component will be repaired or replaced free of charge with another of the same item. A small freight charge may apply. Proof of purchase is essential. We reserve the right to reject any claim where the purchase cannot be verified.

This warranty does not include damage or defects to the tool caused by or resulting from abuse, accidents, alterations or commercial or business use. It also does not cover any bonus items or included accessories. Only the mower is covered under this warranty.

With continuing product development, changes may have occurred which render the product received slightly different to that shown in this instruction manual.

Please ensure that you store your receipt in a safe place.

Conditions apply to the above warranty. For full details of the warranty terms and conditions please refer to our website – www.gmcompany.com

For prompt warranty service, we suggest you log your service request online - www.gmcservice.com.au and should you not have access to the internet, please contact our Customer Service Department on 1300 880 001 (Australia) or 0800 445 721 (New Zealand).

Introduction

Your new GMC power tool will more than satisfy your expectations. It has been manufactured under stringent GMC Quality Standards to meet superior performance criteria.

You will find your new tool easy and safe to operate, and, with proper care, it will give you many years of dependable service.

CAUTION. Carefully read through this entire Instruction Manual before using your new GMC Power Tool. Take special care to heed the Cautions and Warnings.

Your GMC power tool has many features that will make your job faster and easier. Safety, performance, and dependability have been given top priority in the development of this tool, making it easy to maintain and operate.

Environmental protection



Recycle unwanted materials instead of disposing of them as waste. All tools, hoses and packaging should be sorted, taken to the local recycling centre and disposed of in an environmentally safe way.



Noise label rating 75dBA (taken at 7.5 meters) you must wear ear protection at all times.

Description of symbols

The rating plate on your tool may show symbols. These represent important information about the product or instructions on its use.



Conforms to relevant standards for electromagnetic compatibility.



Wear hearing protection.
Wear eye protection.
Wear breathing protection.



Wear safety footwear.



Wear safety gloves.



Warning.



Read these instructions for use carefully.



Use at a distance of at least 15m from other people.



Thrown objects and rotating blades can cause severe injury.



Explosive material.



Extremely hot surface. Do not touch a hot muffler, gear box or cylinder, you may get burned. These parts get extremely hot from operation and remain hot for a short time after the unit is turned off.



Caution before carrying out any operation stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug cap.



Caution. Risk of hand and feet injuries

Specifications

Engine:	GMC FOUR STROKE
Speed:	3000min ⁻¹
Fuel Tank Capacity:	1.5L
Oil Tank Capacity:	0.6L
Width of Cut:	460mm
Blades:	4 Swing-back blades
Height Adjustment:	Single lever, 10 Levels 18mm - 85mm
Wheel Size:	150mm (Front) 180mm (Rear)
Equivalent Spark plugs:	NGK - CR7E NHSP LD - B7RC CHAMPION - RN11YC NHSP LD - F6RTC DENSO - X16EP NHSP LD - D7
Weight (GW):	29kg

Noise label rating 75dBA (taken at 7.5 meters) you must wear ear protection at all times.

Safety rules for petrol lawn mowers

Training

- Read the instructions carefully. Get familiar with the controls and proper use of the equipment.
- Only use the lawn mower for the purpose for which it was designed, i.e. for cutting and collecting grass. Any other use can be hazardous, causing damage to the machine.
- Never allow children or people unfamiliar with these instructions to use the lawn mower. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.
- Never use the lawn mower:
 - When people, especially children, or pets are nearby.
 - If the operator has taken medicine or substances that can affect his ability to react and concentrate.
- Remember that the operator or user is responsible for accidents or hazards occurring to other people or their property.

Preparation

- While mowing, always wear sturdy footwear and long trousers. Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.
- Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all objects which may be thrown by the machine or damage the cutter assembly and the engine (stones, sticks, metal wire, bones, etc.)
- **WARNING: DANGER!** Engine fuel is highly flammable:
 - Store fuel in containers specifically designed for this purpose.
 - Refuel using a funnel and outdoors only. Do not smoke while refuelling or whenever handling the fuel.
 - Add fuel before starting the engine. Never remove the cap of the fuel tank or add fuel while the engine is running or when the engine is hot.
 - If fuel is spilled, do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage and avoid creating any source of ignition until the fuel has evaporated and the vapour dispersed.

- Replace all fuel tanks and containers caps securely.
- Substitute faulty silencers.
- Before use, always inspect the machine, especially the condition of the blades, and check that the screws and cutting assembly are not worn or damaged. Replace worn or damaged blades and screws in sets to preserve balance.
- Discharge openings must be guarded at all times. Do not remove the discharge guard or hold it up while mowing.
- It is advisable to wear suitable eye protection when operating the mower.

Operation

- Do not operate the engine in a confined space where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.
- Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
- If possible, avoid operating the equipment in wet grass.
- Always be sure of your footing on slopes.
- Walk, never run and do not allow yourself to be pulled along by the lawn mower.
- Mow across the face of slopes, never up and down.
- Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Do not mow on slopes of more than 20°.
- Exercise extreme caution when pulling the lawn-mower towards you.
- Stop the blade if the lawn mower has to be tilted for transportation when crossing surfaces other than grass, and when transporting the lawn mower to and from the area to be mowed.
- Never operate the lawn mower with defective guards, or without safety devices, such as the stoneguard and/or grass-catcher, in place.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or over speed the engine.
- On power-driven models, disengage the drive clutch before starting the engine.
- Start the engine carefully, following the instructions and keeping feet well away from the blade.
- Do not tilt the lawn mower when starting the engine. Start the engine on a flat surface that is free of obstacles and tall grass.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Never pick up or carry a lawn mower while the engine is running.
- Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire:
 - Before carrying out any work underneath the cutting deck or before unclogging the chute;
 - Before checking, cleaning or working on lawn mower;
 - After striking a foreign object. Inspect the lawn mower for damage and make repairs before restarting and operating the lawn mower;
 - If the lawn mower starts to vibrate abnormally (find and remove the cause of the vibration immediately).
- Stop the engine:
 - Whenever you leave the lawn mower unattended. Remove the key from models with electric starters.
 - Before refuelling.
 - Every time you remove or replace the grass-catcher.
- Reduce the throttle before turning off the engine and turn the fuel off when you have finished mowing, following the instructions in the engine handbook.
- When mowing, always keep to a safe distance from the rotating blade. This distance is the length of the handle.
- Never cut grass while walking backwards.
- Stop the engine before pushing mower across gravel drives, walks or roads.
- This machine is to be used exclusively for cutting natural grass. Never use the mower for other purposes. Any other utilization can involve danger for your safety and can involve damage to the mower.

- The user is responsible for the safety of other people, animals and objects in the working area. Keep children and domestic animals at a safe distance while the mower is in use.

Maintenance and storage

- Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition. Regular maintenance is essential for safety and performance.
- Never store the equipment with fuel in the tank inside a building where vapour may reach a flame or a spark or a source of extreme heat.
- Allow the engine to cool before storing in an enclosed space.
- To reduce the fire hazard, keep the engine, exhaust silencer, battery compartment and fuel storage area free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease. Do not leave containers with grass cuttings in rooms.
- Check the stone-guard and grass-catcher frequently for wear and deterioration.
- If the fuel tank has to be drained, this should be done outdoors and when the engine is cool.
- Wear strong work gloves when removing and reassembling the blade.
- Check the blade's balance after sharpening.
- For reasons of safety, do not use the equipment with worn or damaged parts. Parts are to be replaced and not repaired. Parts that are not of the same quality can damage the equipment and be dangerous for your safety.
- Whenever the machine is to be handled, transported or tilted you must:
 - wear strong working gloves;
 - grasp the machine at the points that offer a safe grip, taking account of the weight and its distribution.
- Damaged blades and worn bolts are major hazards.
- **Fuel goes off fairly quickly. If you find your mower does not start, 1st change the fuel in the tank with newly purchased fuel.**

Operation safety instructions

WARNING: Stop the engine and unplug the spark plug before any repairs or maintenance operations.

- Check that all nuts, bolts and screws are well tightened before every use.
- Before mowing ensure that the blade and the blade fixing screw are securely fastened. When the blade edges require re-sharpening, this must be done evenly on both sides to prevent any imbalance. If the blade is damaged, it must be replaced.
- When mowing always wear long trousers and strong, covered footwear.
- Do not run the engine in an enclosed and/or poorly ventilated area. The gas of the engine contains carbon monoxide, which is dangerous to your health.
- Work only when there is sufficient light.
- Do not use the lawn mower when it is raining or when the grass is wet.
- Caution must be taken while mowing on slopes. Mow across the face of slopes, never down or up.
- Turn off the engine if you must leave the lawn mower unattended.
- Never lift the rear of the mower while starting the engine and never place your hands and feet underneath the deck while the engine is running.
- If working on high grass, adjust the mowing height to reduce the friction and prevent over loading. The optimal mowing height should be 1/3 the height of the grass. It would affect the work efficiency of lawn mower if too higher or lower.
- Never change the rated speed of the engine in any way .
- Never lift or carry the mower while the engine is running.
- Stop the engine and remove the spark plug cover in these cases:
 - Before any operation under the deck.
 - Before any maintenance, repairing or checking operations.

- Before carrying, lifting or removing the mower.
- If you leave the mower unattended or change the cutting height.
- After hitting a foreign object, stop the engine and check thoroughly the mower in order to see if it is damaged. Take the mower to an authorized service centre to carry out any repairs if necessary.
- If the mower vibrates in an abnormal way, take the mower to an authorized service centre.
- Check the bolts and nuts regularly. Bolts and nuts may vibrate loose over time.

WARNING: Fuel is highly flammable.

- Keep fuel in a jerry can specially made for this purpose.
- Fill the fuel tank with a funnel and outside. Do not smoke or use a mobile phone during this process.
- Fill with fuel and oil before starting the engine. Never open the cap of the fuel tank to add gasoline while the engine is running or still hot.
- Do not start the engine if there is spilt fuel on the mower or in the area surrounding. Take the mower away from the zone where fuel has been split and avoid any contact from a hot source as long as the split gasoline is completely evaporated.
- Tighten the fuel tank cap and jerry can cap tightly.

Unpacking

Due to modern mass production techniques, it is unlikely that your GMC Power Tool is faulty or that a part is missing. If you find anything wrong, do not operate the tool until the parts have been replaced or the fault has been rectified. Failure to do so could result in serious personal injury.

Contents of carton

- Handle bar locking knobs, (including 2 bolts)
- Plastic 60L catcher

Know your product

1. Handle bar
2. Lower handle
3. Throttle Lever
4. Wheel
5. Catcher
6. Height adjustment lever
7. Fuel tank cap
8. Oil filler cap
9. Recoil starter
10. Spark plug cap
11. Air filter
12. Brake Lever
13. Handle bar locking knob
14. Blade
15. Blade bolt
16. Discharge guard



Assembly

WARNING: Stop the engine and unplug the spark plug before any repairs or maintenance operations.

It is necessary to fit the lower handle (2), handle bar (1), and catcher (5) to the mower.

Assembling the catcher

1. The grass catcher (5) is supplied in two sections. Locate the top half on top of the bottom half and interlock them together by aligning the lugs and slots and pushing the halves together until they click into place.



Attaching the catcher

1. Lift the discharge guard (16) in order to position the catcher.
2. While lifting the discharge guard, align the holes in the lower half of the catcher with the hooks on the mower deck (located under the discharge chute). Push the catcher onto the hooks in a downwards direction.



3. Push the catcher down until it locks into place.
4. Release the discharge guard to secure the catcher in place between the 2 ribbed locking notches.

Note. Always empty the catcher before it has reached maximum capacity, otherwise it will decrease the performance of the mower.



Attaching the Handles

It is necessary to attach both the lower handle and handle bars.

1. To attach the lower handle (2), first use a spanner (not supplied) to remove the 4 bolts.
2. Place the lower handle in position and replace the 4 bolts. Use a spanner to retighten the nuts.
3. To attach the handle bar (1), first remove the two handle bar locking knobs (13).



4. Position the handle bar over the lower handle and insert the two locking knobs. Tighten to secure the handles together and in place.

Cutting height adjustment

WARNING: Stop the engine and unplug the spark plug before any repairs or maintenance operations.

The GMC mower has one lever to easily adjust the cutting height.

There are 10 height settings.

1. To decrease the cutting height pull the height adjustment lever (6) out and move it up a notch, towards the handlebar.
2. To increase the cutting height pull the lever out and move it down a notch, towards the engine.



Note. If you are unsure of which cutting height to use, begin with a high setting and trial a small section of lawn, then check the appearance of the lawn. Then readjust if necessary

Brake lever

The mower is equipped with a brake lever (12) to improve the safety of the mower.

During operation the brake lever must be held, if it is let go the engine will automatically stop.

To start the lawn mower you must hold the brake lever to the handle bar.



Fuelling

IMPORTANT. Fuel goes off fairly quickly. If you find your mower does not start, 1st change the fuel in the tank with newly purchased fuel.

Note. Use fresh unleaded petrol.

1. Unscrew the fuel tank cap (7) and pour unleaded petrol into the tank with the aid of a funnel.



2. Fill the tank to approximately 2.5 cm below the lowest portion of the neck to allow for fuel expansion.

Be careful not to over fill.

3. Be careful not to spill any petrol, if this happens, wipe the spill with a clean rag.
4. Start the engine at least three meters away from the area where the fuel tank has been filled in order to avoid the risk of fire.

WARNING. Never attempt to refuel the engine while it is running or still warm, allow it to cool before fuelling.

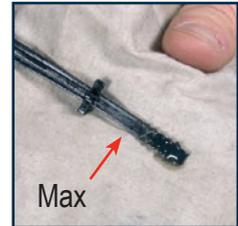
Checking the oil

CAUTION. The lawn mower is shipped without oil. Do not start your lawn mower before ensuring it has been filled with the right amount of correct grade oil.

WARNING. If mower is operated without fuel and 4 stroke oil, your warranty will be void.

IMPORTANT. If mower is not used for an extended period of time (3 months or more) fuel and oil must be decanted (emptied) then replaced before the next use.

1. Move the lawn mower to a level surface and clean around the oil filler cap (8) .
2. Remove the oil filler cap with dipstick and wipe it with a clean cloth. Replace it and retighten the cap.



3. Remove the dipstick again and check the oil level, the oil should be at the full ('max') mark.
4. If oil is required add it slowly (the oil capacity is about 0.6 litre), do not over fill.

- Retighten the oil filler cap firmly before starting the engine.

Starting the engine

Note. Before starting the mower check the oil and fuel levels. Warranty will be void if the engine becomes faulty due to insufficient oil and fuel levels.

- Move the throttle lever (3) to the cold start position.
- Disengage the brake by pulling the brake lever (12) toward the handle. Letting go of the lever will prevent the mower from starting or will stop the engine, if running.
- While holding the brake lever inward, pull the recoil starter (9) lightly until you feel resistance then pull quickly until the engine starts. Do not pull the cord with a jerk or release it until fully rewind.
- Once the lawn mower has started and warmed up move the throttle lever to the either COLD START POSITION (recommended) or RUN while continuing to hold the brake lever.



Running the engine

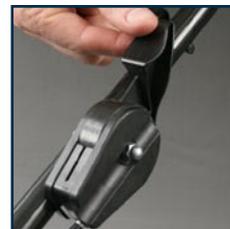
Note. If the safety brake is removed, the engine will cut out.

- Once the engine warms up, move the throttle to RUN (WORKING) position.
- Push the throttle to the suitable place, to achieve the required rotation speed.



Stopping the engine

To stop the engine reduce the speed of the engine by pulling the throttle lever (3) towards the tortoise and release the brake lever (12). In an emergency just release the brake lever.



Mowing advice

- It is recommended to use the fast throttle setting and keep the engine running at maximum speed. This will deliver the best cut. If the speed of the engine slows this could indicate the mower is being overloaded, by trying to cut too much grass or the catcher may be full. Try mowing a narrower strip, mowing slower or raise the cutting height.
- Sharp blades cut cleanly and efficiently, if the blade is dull it will tear the grass. This will result in the ends turning brown. When the blades no longer cut cleanly either sharpen them or replace them.
- To safely operate the mower ensure all four wheels are on the ground and be careful not to lose your footing or control of the mower. Be very careful when mowing uneven or rough ground. Keep a firm grip on the handle bar at all times, always walk, never run with the mower.

4. For healthy growth, grass should not be cut too short. This can cause damage to the grass and allow weeds to develop.
5. Vary your cutting pattern from week to week, this will help to prevent matting and graining of the grass.
6. Before checking a clogged mower deck stop the engine completely and disconnect the spark plug lead and then tilt the mower so the air filter side is facing upwards. Use a stick to clear any clogged material, never use your hands.
7. Mowing wet grass should be avoided. Wet grass will clog the mower deck and if it is slippery you may lose your footing.
8. Always mow across slopes not up and down them. Be extra careful if the grass is wet as this could cause you to slip and lose control of the mower.
9. If the ground is too dry, mowing will stir up a lot of dust which may clog the air filter. In these conditions it is recommended to water your lawn the day before mowing.
10. Use the side of the mower as a guide to cut close to large objects such as a fence or a wall. Be careful when mowing over obstacles embedded in the lawn such as sprinkler systems and paving, avoid anything that sticks up above the surface of the lawn.
11. Avoid mowing over loose stones, gravel and other landscaping material as this can be picked up by the mower and flung out causing serious personal injury.
12. If the blades do come into contact with something or the mower starts to vibrate stop the engine immediately, remove the spark plug lead and inspect to see if there is any damage.

Maintenance

Emptying the grass catcher

Note. Before making any adjustment or maintenance procedures to the mower ensure it is turned off and the spark plug lead is removed.

To remove the catcher, raise the guard while lifting the catcher to dislodge it from the hooks.

WARNING. Check the catcher frequently for cracks and wear and replace it if damaged.

Do not leave clippings in the catcher for extended periods.

Replacing the blades

WARNING. Stop the engine and unplug the spark plug before any repairs or maintenance operations.

WARNING. Never carry out any assembly operations or adjustments with the engine running.

Note. Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands.

Notes

- Periodically check the blades (14) for nicks and dull cutting edges and have it sharpened if needed.
- The blades should be sharpened and balanced by an authorised repair centre.
- If there are rounded or broken ends, thinned metal or other damage, replace the blade.

1. With the engine switched off, remove the catcher and lift the front of the mower upwards so the handle bar sits on the ground and the spark plug faces upwards.

Note. Improper tipping may affect engine performance.

2. Remove the blade disc with a spanner (not supplied). The central blade bolt must be removed first.



3. Remove all 4 single blades including the washer and nuts.

4. Clean the dirt and grass from around the blade mounting area.

5. Replace all 4 blades to ensure a smooth even cut. By replacing the washer, then the half washer, then the nut securing the blade firmly, (25 – 30Nm) repeat this for the other 3 blades.

6. Replace the blade disc and retighten the central blade bolt tightly (50 – 59Nm).



Note. Use a wooden block to stop the blade from turning. The 4 blades should be tightened fully but check to ensure they can still swing back if they were to hit a solid object.

Where required tighten the bolts with a torque wrench, the centre disc blade bolt torque: 50 – 59Nm and the four blades torque: 25 – 30Nm.

If you do not have a torque wrench ask a mower service dealer to tighten the blade bolts before you use the mower.

WARNING. If the blade bolts are not tightened correctly they could loosen and/or come out and it would be possible for the blades to fly off while you are operating the mower.

7. Return the mower to the upright position.

8. Start the engine and allow the mower to run for a few minutes to check that the blade is properly fitted and that there is no undue noise or vibration. Use only the blade as recommended by the manufacturer.

GMC customer assist

If your product needs repairing, replacing, technical service or you simply need help or advice, please contact us on our Customer Assist Line 1300 880 001 (Australia) or 0800 445 721 (New Zealand).

For prompt service we suggest you log your service request online at www.gmcservice.com.au. Should you not have access to the Internet, please contact our service department on 1300 880 001 (Australia) or 0800 445 721 (New Zealand). 7am – 7pm, 7days a week (AEST).

Please note that if repair or replacement is required, you must provide a valid original purchase receipt.

You will need the following details at hand to log your service request;

Personal details: First & Last name, address, pick up address, contact phone numbers, email address

Product details: Product number, date of purchase, retailer bought from, State & postcode, receipt number, reason for the request, copy of official purchase receipt

Attach your purchase receipt and save with this Manual for future reference.

Please refer to our website www.gmcompany.com for full GMC warranty Terms and Conditions.

Attach Your
Receipt Here



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