16 OPERATION

INTENDED USE: This is not a lawn mower. The Brush Cutter is designed for cutting overgrown weeds, brush, and other types of organic growth to a height of 3-1/2". The unit may also be used to clear small saplings 1-1/2" in dia. or less. It does not provide the cut quality of a finish cut lawn mower. The unit is designed for use in rural areas, and should not be used in settings where conditions require that the unit be operated in tight or confined areas. Be sure to inspect work area and machine before operating. Make sure that all operators of this equipment are trained in general machine use and safety.

Like all mechanical tools, reasonable care must be used when operating machine. Do not operate unit in areas where bystanders may be present.

Do not operate if excessive vibration occurs. If excessive vibration occurs, shut engine off immediately and check for damaged or worn blade, loose blade bolt, loose blade adapter key, loose engine or lodged foreign objects. Note: See parts list for proper blade bolt torque specifications. (See trouble shooting section on page 12).

16.1 STARTING

PUT OIL IN ENGINE BEFORE STARTING.

ENGINE: See engine manufacturer's instructions for type and amount of oil and gasoline used. Engine must be level when checking and filling oil and gasoline.

ENGINE SPEED: Controlled by throttle lever on the handle.

FUEL VALVE: Move fuel valve to "ON" position (when provided on engine).

CHOKE:
Briggs engines have a choke type carburetor that is operated by moving the throttle control to the full start position.
Honda engines have a separate choke lever that is operated by pulling back when starting. Push it back to its original position after the engine has started.

THROTTLE: Move remote throttle control to fast position. Pull starting rope to start engine.

ELECTRIC START: Choke the engine if necessary. Push and hold down on the rocker switch until engine starts, then release switch to run.

IF YOUR UNIT FAILS TO START:
See Troubleshooting on page 12.

16.2 CUTTING OPERATION

GENERAL OPERATION: To engage the blade, depress the operator's left hand control lever against operator's handle. The blade is disengaged by releasing this lever.(See Fig. 1.1) To engage the wheel drive, lift the operator's right hand control lever against operator's handle. The drive is disengaged by releasing this lever.(See Fig. 1.2) Ground speed can be varied by shifting gears as described on page 9. To begin cutting engage the blade lever, allow the blade to spin up to speed, and engage the wheel drive to begin moving forward into the material to be cut.

NOTE: Do not engage blade during transport between work sites. The blade should remain disengaged at all times when work is not being performed.

The best performance is achieved when cutting in dry conditions. If the deck becomes choked with grass or debris during operation, back unit off of debris allowing machine to clear itself and continue cutting, or shut the unit off and clear the clog by hand (See below). A drop in engine RPM or a noticeable change in engine sound is usually a good indicator of a clogged discharge or other interference.

Under most conditions cutting should be done in first or second gear. Third gear should be reserved for conditions where weeds and brush are thinned out or not as tall. The quality of the cut produced is directly related to the unit's ground speed during cutting. If the quality of the cut is not satisfactory (i.e. material left standing) you should shift into a lower gear during cutting. For improved control in confined areas, this machine can be pushed forward or backward by releasing the operator's clutch lever, placing the transaxle in neutral, and pushing the machine.

CLEARING A CLOGGED CUTTING DECK:
Turn engine off and wait for blade to stop completely. Disconnect spark plug wire. Wearing durable gloves, remove clog.
Danger, the clog may contain sharp materials.
Reconnect spark plug wire.

BLADE CLUTCH

The Brush Cutter blade clutch is controlled by an operator presence control. To engage the blade, depress the operator's left hand control lever against operator's handle. The blade is disengaged by releasing this lever.(See Fig. 1.1)

NOTE: The blade clutch must be either fully engaged for cutting or fully disengaged to bring the blade to a stop. Do not operate the unit with the blade clutch partially engaged. Premature belt wear and clutch failure will result from improper operation of the clutch.

CAUTION: Use extreme care when operating the blade. Inspect the work area for foriegn objects that could cause damage to the unit or injure the operator if struck by the blade. Never operate the blade with bystanders in the work area.

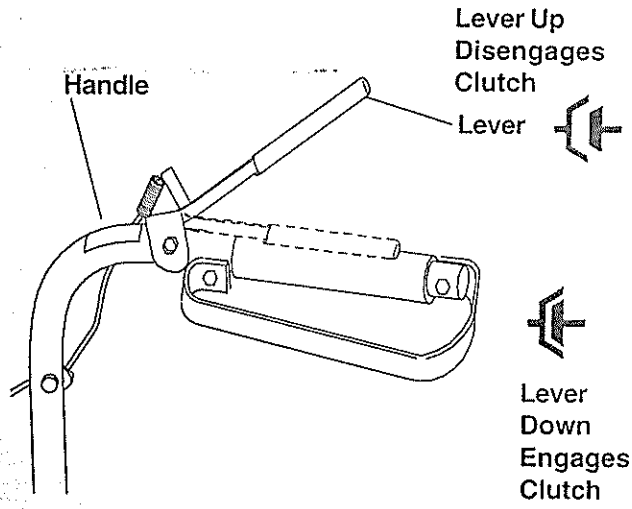

Fig. 1.1

16.3 PROPULSION

This Brush Cutter is self-propelled, and is controlled by an operator presence control. To engage the wheel drive, lift the operator's right hand control lever against operator's handle. The drive is disengaged by releasing this lever.(See Fig. 1.2)

GROUND SPEED can be varied by selecting a higher or lower gear using the gear shift lever at the rear of the machine(See Fig. 2), or by changing the engine rpm. To shift the Brush Cutter into reverse, release all controls and rotate the shift lever to the left, when the lever stops lift it up and continue to turn it to the left until it stops again.

Under most conditions cutting should be done in first or second gear. Third gear should be reserved for conditions where weeds and brush are thinned out or not as tall. The quality of the cut produced is directly related to the unit's ground speed during cutting. If the quality of the cut is not satisfactory (i.e. material left standing) you should shift into a lower gear during cutting. For improved control in confined areas, this machine can be pushed forward or backward by releasing the operator's clutch lever, placing the transaxle in neutral, and pushing the machine.

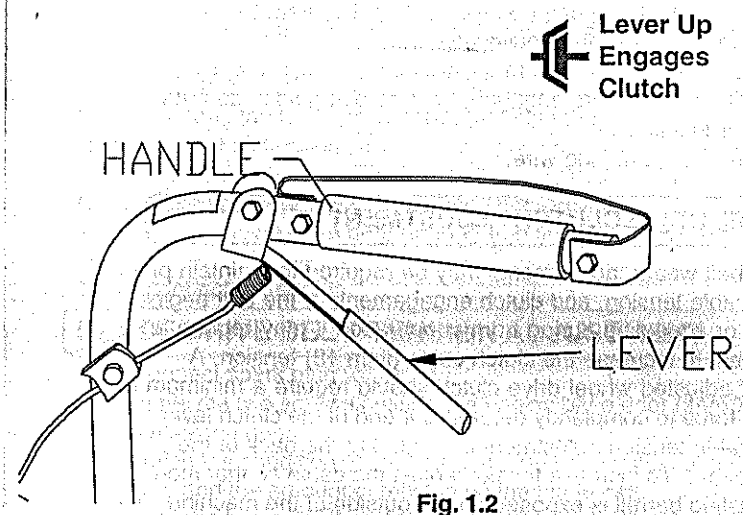

Fig. 1.2

16.4 CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Cutting height can be adjusted to allow a 1" lower cutting height. This is particularly useful for cutting grasses that lay over when over grown. (i.e. Bermuda, Johnson, etc.)

Note: When cutting brush and normal field grasses it is strongly recommended that you operate your brush cutter at the standard (top) cutting height.

16.5 HANDLING & TRANSPORTING:

Using three people to lift machine is recommended. Lift holding the handle and front guard for deck. Secure in place during transport.

⚠ Never lift the unit with the engine running.

16.6 STORAGE

⚠ Never store engine indoors or in enclosed poorly ventilated areas with fuel in tank, where fuel fumes may reach an open flame, spark or pilot light, as on a furnace, water heater, clothes dryer or other gas appliance.

If engine is to be unused for 30 days or more, prepare as follows:

⚠ Be sure engine is cool. Do not smoke. Remove all gasoline from carburetor and fuel tank to prevent gum deposits from forming on these parts and causing possible malfunction of engine. Drain fuel outdoors, into an approved container, away from open flame. Run engine until fuel tank is empty and engine runs out of gasoline.

NOTE: Fuel stabilizer (such as Sta-Bil) is an acceptable alternative in minimizing the formation of fuel gum deposits during storage. Add stabilizer to gasoline in fuel tank or storage container. Always follow mix ratio found on stabilizer container. Run engine at least 10 min. after adding stabilizer to allow it to reach the carburetor.

⚠ **CAUTION: Wheels must be chocked or blocked when unit is parked on a slope.**

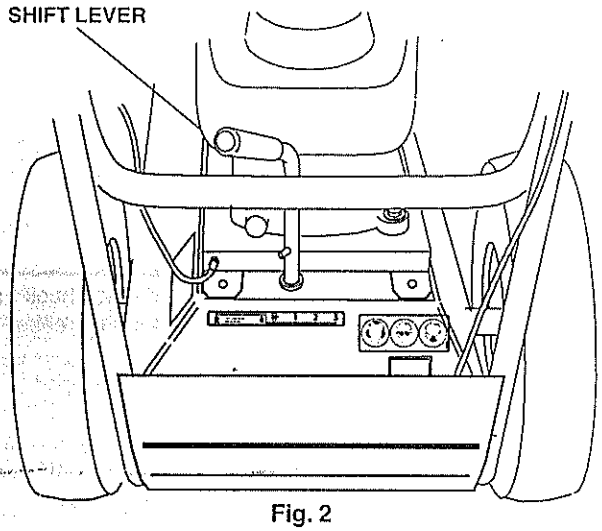

Fig. 2

ENGINE

When servicing engine refer to specific manufacturers engine owner's manual. All engine warranty is covered by the specific engine manufacturer. If your engine requires warranty or other repair work contact your local servicing engine dealer. When contacting a dealer for service it is a good idea to have your engine model number available for reference(See table page 11). If you can not locate a servicing dealer in your area you can contact the manufacturers national service organization.

Briggs & Stratton: 800-233-3723
American Honda: 800-426-7701