

# Winterize your mower

Now is the time to prepare your mower for winter. A few simple tasks done this fall will keep your mower in great shape for next spring!

- Siphon out as much gas as possible and then run the engine until it runs dry. If the gasoline can't be easily removed from the tank, add a fuel stabilizer. This will prevent deposits from forming in the carburetor.
- While the engine is warm, drain and refill with fresh oil. This should be done at least once a year.
- Scrape off any dried grass or dirt from the underside of the mower. Wipe off any dirt from the top of the mower.
- Remove the spark plug and put a spoonful of oil through the port. Replace the spark plug and pull the start cord several times to distribute the oil throughout the engine.
- Clean the air filter. Replace, if needed.



- Sharpen the blade. Try to do this every year. A sharp blade will give you a cleaner cut and healthier grass growth.
- Store the mower in a cool, dry place. If you cover your mower, use a cloth material. Plastic covers can trap moisture. DG

Source: Lawn Boy

**NDSU**  
Extension Service

Written by Tom Kalb,  
Extension Horticulturist, NDSU  
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu

Published November 2008  
Revised November 2011

The following photo was made available under Creative Commons licenses specified by the photographer, allowing for adaptation, modification or building upon: "Victa Mower 3" by Tim in Sydney, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tgillin/522943511/>.