



Operator's Manual

# EC240

Sod Cutter





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### To the Owner Contact Information and Product Identification

If you need to contact an authorized Ventrac dealer for information on servicing your product, always provide the product model and serial numbers.

Please fill in the following information for future reference. See the picture(s) below to find the location of the identification numbers. Record them in the spaces provided.

Date of Purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer: \_\_\_\_\_

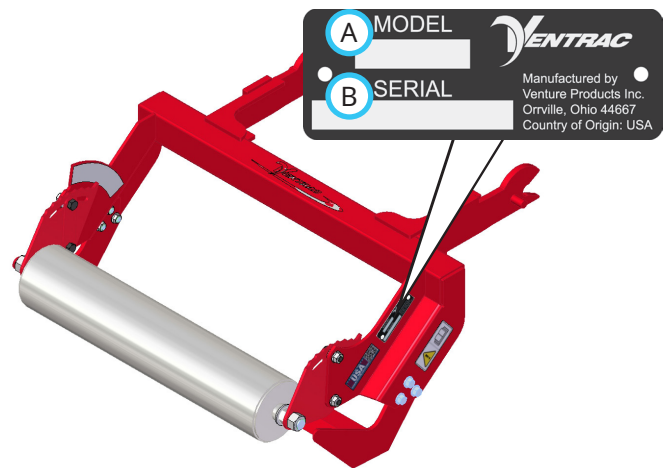
Dealer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Model # (A): \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # (B): \_\_\_\_\_



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# INTRODUCTION

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Venture Products Inc. is pleased to provide you with your new Ventrac EC240 sod cutter! We hope that Ventrac equipment will provide you with a ONE Tractor Solution.

## Product Description

The EC240 sod cutter is designed to cleanly cut sod for flower beds, walkways, and lawns. With a cutting depth of 0 - 6.4 cm (0 - 2-1/2 inches), the EC240 can be used to cut thick lush grass or shave off dirt for work site preparation.

## Why Do I Need an Operator's Manual?

This manual has been created to help you gain the important knowledge of what is needed to safely operate and maintain your machine, and to avoid injury and product damage. It is divided into chapters for convenient reference of the appropriate information.

You must read and understand the operator's manual for each piece of Ventrac equipment you own. Reading the operator's manual will help you become familiar with each specific piece of equipment. If this manual becomes damaged or unreadable, it should be replaced immediately. Contact your local Ventrac dealer for a replacement.

When using a Ventrac attachment, be sure to read and follow the safety and operating instructions of both the power unit and the attachment being used to ensure the safest operation possible.

The information in this manual provides the operator with the safest procedures to operate the machine while getting the maximum use out of the unit. Failure to follow the safety precautions listed in this manual may result in personal injury and/or damage to the equipment.

# INTRODUCTION

## Using Your Manual

This manual identifies potential hazards and safety concerns to help you, as well as others, avoid personal injury and/or damage to the equipment.

Safety should always be the first priority when working on or operating equipment. Accidents are more likely to occur when proper operating procedures are not followed or inexperienced operators are involved.

### SYMBOL DEFINITIONS



This symbol identifies potential health and safety hazards. It marks safety precautions. Your safety and the safety of others is involved.

There are three signal words that describe the level of safety concern: Danger, Warning, and Caution.

### SIGNAL WORD DEFINITIONS

#### **DANGER**

Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. This signal word is limited to the most extreme cases.

#### **WARNING**

Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

#### **CAUTION**

Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury and/or property damage. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices.

This manual also uses two words to highlight information. **ATTENTION** calls attention to special mechanical information to prevent equipment damage and/or best practices for equipment service and care.

**NOTE** emphasizes general information that is worthy of special attention.

Note: Right-Hand and Left-Hand orientations may be referred to at different places throughout this manual. Right-Hand and Left-Hand is determined as if facing forward from the operator station.

## Manual Glossary

- Power Unit** A Ventrac tractor or other Ventrac engine powered device that may be operated by itself or with an attachment or accessory.
- Attachment** A piece of Ventrac equipment that requires a Power Unit for operation.
- Accessory** A device that attaches to a Power Unit or Attachment to extend its capabilities.
- Machine** Describes any "Attachment" or "Accessory" that is used in conjunction with a power unit.

# SAFETY

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## General Safety Procedures for Ventrac Power Units, Attachments, & Accessories



### Training Required

- The owner of this machine is solely responsible for properly training the operators.
- The owner/operator is solely responsible for the operation of this machine and for the prevention of accidents or injuries occurring to him/herself, other people, or property.
- Do not allow operation or service by children or untrained personnel. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.
- Before operating this machine, read the operator's manual and understand its contents.
- If the operator of the machine cannot understand this manual, then it is the responsibility of this machine's owner to fully explain the material within this manual to the operator.
- Learn and understand the use of all the controls.
- Know how to stop the power unit and the attachments quickly in the event of an emergency.

### Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The owner is responsible for ensuring that all the operators use the proper PPE while operating the machine. Whenever you use the machine, use the following PPE:
- Certified eye protection and hearing protection.
- Closed toe, slip resistant footwear.
- Long pants or trousers.
- A dust mask for dusty conditions.
- Additional PPE may be required. Refer to the product safety procedures for any additional requirements.

### Operation Safety

- Secure long hair and loose clothing. Do not wear jewelry.
- Inspect the machine before operation. Repair or replace any damaged, worn, or missing parts. Be sure the guards and shields are in proper working condition and are secured in place. Make any necessary adjustments before operating the machine.
- Some pictures in this manual may show shields or covers opened or removed in order to clearly illustrate the instructions. Under no circumstance should the machine be operated without these devices in place.
- Alterations or modifications to this machine can reduce safety and could cause damage to the machine. Do not alter the safety devices or operate with the shields or covers removed.
- Before each use, verify that all the controls function properly and inspect all the safety devices. Do not operate if the controls or safety devices are not in proper working condition.
- Check the parking brake function before operating. Repair or adjust the parking brake if necessary.
- Observe and follow all of the safety decals.
- All the controls are to be operated from the operator's station only.
- Always wear a seat belt if the machine has a roll cage/bar installed and in the upright position.

# SAFETY

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## General Safety Procedures for Ventrac Power Units, Attachments, & Accessories



- Ensure the attachment or accessory is locked or fastened securely to the power unit before operating.
- Ensure that all bystanders are clear of the power unit and the attachment before operating. Stop the machine if someone enters your work area.
- Always be alert to what is happening around you, but do not lose focus on the task you are performing. Always look in the direction the machine is moving.
- Look behind and down before backing up to be sure of a clear path.
- If you hit an object, stop and inspect the machine. Make any necessary repairs before operating the machine again.
- Stop operation immediately at any sign of equipment failure. An unusual noise can be a warning of equipment failure or a sign that maintenance is required. Make any necessary repairs before operating the machine again.
- If equipped with a high/low range feature, never shift between high and low range while on a slope. Always move the machine to level ground and engage the parking brake before shifting range.
- Do not leave the machine unattended while it is running.
- Always park the machine on level ground.
- Always shut off the engine when connecting the attachment drive belt to the power unit.
- Never leave the operator's station without lowering the attachment to the ground, engaging the parking brake, shutting off the engine, and removing the ignition key. Make sure all moving parts have come to a complete stop before dismounting.
- Never leave the machine unattended without lowering the attachment to the ground, engaging the parking brake, shutting off the engine, and removing the ignition key.
- Only operate in well-lit conditions.
- Do not operate when there is a risk of lightning.
- Never direct the discharge of any attachment in the direction of people, buildings, animals, vehicles, or other objects of value.
- Never discharge material against a wall or obstruction. The material may ricochet back toward the operator.
- Use extra caution when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision.
- Do not run the engine in a building without adequate ventilation.
- Do not touch the engine or the muffler while the engine is running or immediately after stopping the engine. These areas may be hot enough to cause a burn.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine. Operating the engine at excessive speeds may increase the hazard of personal injury.
- To reduce the hazard of fire, keep the battery compartment, engine, and muffler areas free of grass, leaves, excessive grease, and other flammable materials.
- Clear the working area of objects that might be hit or thrown from the machine.

# SAFETY

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## General Safety Procedures for Ventrac Power Units, Attachments, & Accessories



- Keep people and pets out of the working area.
- Know the work area well before operation. Do not operate where traction or stability is questionable.
- Reduce speed when you are operating over rough ground.
- Equipment can cause serious injury and/or death when improperly used. Before operating, know and understand the operation and safety of the power unit and the attachment being used.
- Do not operate the machine if you are not in good physical and mental health, if you will be distracted by personal devices, or if you are under the influence of any substance which might impair your decisions, dexterity, or judgment.
- Children are attracted to machine activity. Be aware of children and do not allow them in the work area. Turn off the machine if a child enters the work area.
- Power units, attachments, and accessories are not designed or intended for travel on public roadways. Never operate or travel on public roads or highways.
- Operate with safety lights when operating near roadways.
- Slow down and be careful of traffic when operating near or crossing roadways. Stop before crossing roads or sidewalks. Use care when approaching areas or objects that may obscure vision.

### Keep Riders Off

- Only allow the operator on the power unit. Keep riders off.
- Never allow riders on any attachment or accessory.

### Operating On Slopes

- Slopes can cause loss-of-control and tip-over accidents, which can result in severe injury or death. Be familiar with the emergency parking brake, along with the power unit controls and their functions.
- If the power unit is equipped with a fold down roll bar, it must be locked in the upright position when operating on any slope.
- Use low range (if equipped) when operating on slopes greater than 15 degrees.
- Do not stop or start suddenly when operating on slopes.
- Never shift between high and low range while on a slope. Always move the power unit to level ground and engage the parking brake before shifting range or placing the power unit in neutral.
- Variables such as wet surfaces and loose ground will reduce the degree of safety. Do not drive where the machine could lose traction or tip over.
- Keep alert for hidden hazards in the terrain.
- Stay away from drop-offs, ditches, and embankments.
- Sharp turns should be avoided when operating on slopes.
- Pulling loads on hills decreases safety. It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to determine loads that can safely be controlled on slopes.



# SAFETY

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## General Safety Procedures for Ventrac Power Units, Attachments, & Accessories



- Transport the machine with the attachment lowered or close to the ground to improve stability.
- While operating on slopes, drive in an up and down direction whenever possible. If turning is necessary while driving across slopes, reduce your speed and turn slowly in the downhill direction.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of fuel for continuous operation. A minimum of one-half tank of fuel is recommended.

### Truck Or Trailer Transport

- Use care when loading or unloading the machine into a truck or trailer.
- Use full width ramps for loading the machine into a truck or trailer.
- The parking brake is not sufficient to lock the machine during transport. Always secure the power unit and/or attachment to the transporting vehicle securely using straps, chains, cables, or ropes. Both the front and rear straps should be directed down and outward from the machine.
- Shut off the fuel supply to the power unit during transport on a truck or trailer.
- If equipped, turn the battery disconnect switch to the Off position to shut off electrical power.

### Maintenance

- Keep the safety decals legible. Remove all grease, dirt, and debris from the safety decals and instructional labels.
- If any decals are faded, illegible, or missing, contact your dealer promptly for replacements.
- When new components are installed, be sure that the current safety decals are affixed to the replacement components.
- If any component requires replacement, use only original Ventrac replacement parts.
- Always turn the battery disconnect to the Off position or disconnect the battery before performing any repairs. Disconnect the negative terminal first and the positive terminal last. Reconnect the positive terminal first and the negative terminal last.
- Keep all bolts, nuts, screws, and other fasteners properly tightened.
- Always lower the attachment to the ground, engage the parking brake, shut off the engine, and remove the ignition key. Make sure all moving parts have come to a complete stop before cleaning, inspecting, adjusting, or repairing.
- If the power unit, attachment, or accessory requires repairs or adjustments not instructed in the operator's manual, the power unit, attachment, or accessory must be taken to an authorized Ventrac dealer for service.
- Never perform maintenance on the power unit and/or attachment if someone is in the operator's station.
- Always use protective glasses when handling the battery.
- Check the fuel lines for tightness and wear on a regular basis. Tighten or repair them as needed.
- To reduce the hazard of fire, keep the battery compartment, engine, and muffler areas free of grass, leaves, and excess grease.
- Do not touch the engine, the muffler, or other exhaust components while the engine is running or immediately after stopping the engine. These areas may be hot enough to cause a burn.

# SAFETY

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## General Safety Procedures for Ventrac Power Units, Attachments, & Accessories



- Allow the engine to cool before storing and do not store near an open flame.
- Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine. Operating engine at excessive speeds may increase the hazard of personal injury.
- Springs may contain stored energy. Use caution when disengaging or removing springs and/or spring loaded components.
- An obstruction or blockage in a drive system or moving/rotating parts may cause a buildup of stored energy. When the obstruction or blockage is removed, the drive system or moving/rotating parts may move suddenly. Do not attempt to remove an obstruction or blockage with your hands. Keep your hands, feet, and clothing away from all power-driven parts.

### Fuel Safety

- To avoid personal injury or property damage, use extreme care in handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.
- Do not refuel the machine while smoking or at a location near flames or sparks.
- Always refuel the machine outdoors.
- Do not store the machine or fuel container indoors where the fumes or fuel can reach an open flame, spark, or pilot light.
- Only store fuel in an approved container. Keep out of the reach of children.
- Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place the containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
- Remove the machine from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, refuel the machine using a portable container, rather than from a fuel dispenser nozzle.
- Never remove the fuel cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow the engine to cool before refueling.
- Never remove the fuel cap while on a slope. Only remove the fuel cap when parked on a level surface.
- Replace the fuel tank cap and the container cap securely.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank. Only fill to the bottom of the fuel neck, do not fill the fuel neck full. Overfilling of the fuel tank could result in engine flooding, fuel leakage from the tank, and/or damage to the emissions control system.
- If fuel is spilled, do not attempt to start the engine. Move the power unit away from the fuel spill and avoid creating any source of ignition until the fuel vapors have dissipated.
- If the fuel tank must be drained, it should be drained outdoors into an approved container.
- Check the fuel lines for tightness and wear on a regular basis. Tighten or repair them as needed.
- The fuel system is equipped with a shut-off valve. Shut off the fuel when transporting the machine to and from the job, when parking the machine indoors, or when servicing the fuel system.

# SAFETY

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## General Safety Procedures for Ventrac Power Units, Attachments, & Accessories



### Hydraulic Safety

- Make sure the hydraulic connections are tight and all hydraulic hoses and tubes are in good condition. Repair any leaks and replace any damaged or deteriorated hoses or tubes before starting the machine.
- Hydraulic leaks can occur under high pressure. Hydraulic leaks require special care and attention.
- Use a piece of cardboard and a magnifying glass to locate suspected hydraulic leaks.
- Keep your body and hands away from pinhole leaks or nozzles that eject high pressure hydraulic fluid. Hydraulic fluid escaping under high pressure can penetrate the skin causing serious injury, leading to severe complications and/or secondary infections if left untreated. If hydraulic fluid is injected into the skin, seek immediate medical attention no matter how minor the injury appears.
- The hydraulic system may contain stored energy. Before performing maintenance or repairs on the hydraulic system, remove any attachments, engage the parking brake, disengage the weight transfer system (if equipped), shut off the engine, and remove the ignition key. To relieve pressure on the auxiliary hydraulic system, shut off the power unit engine and move the hydraulic control lever left and right before disconnecting the auxiliary hydraulic quick couplers.

# SAFETY

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## EC240 Safety Procedures



- Drive at speeds that are comfortable to you and allow steering ability and power unit stability to be maintained.
- Keep hands away from the pinch points when adjusting the cutting depth.
- The cutting blade is sharp. Wear gloves and use caution when installing, removing, adjusting, or handling the cutting blade.
- Do not make sharp turns with the cutting blade in the ground.

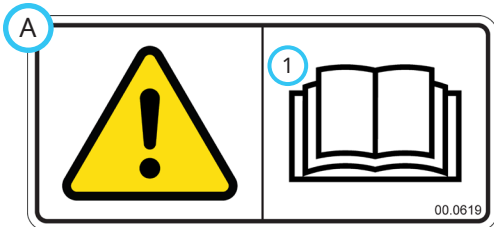
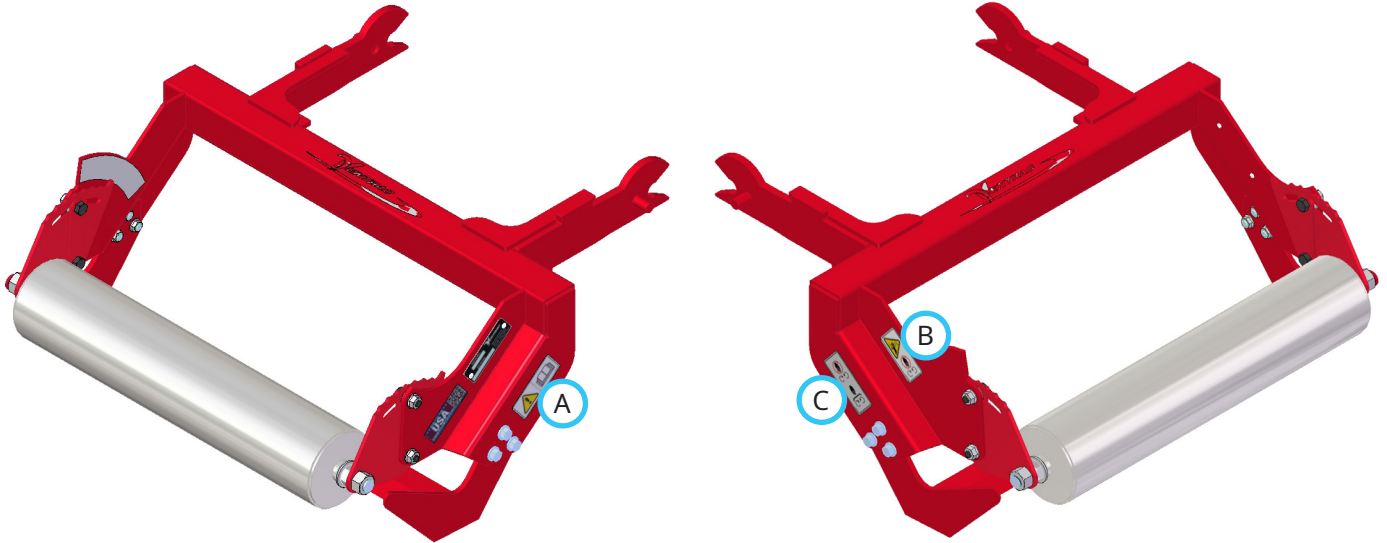
# SAFETY

## Safety Decals

The following safety decals must be maintained on your attachment.

Keep all safety decals legible. Remove all grease, dirt, and debris from safety decals and instructional labels. If any decals are faded, illegible, or missing, contact your dealer promptly for replacements.

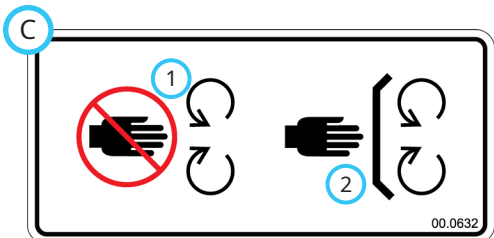
When new components are installed, be sure that current safety decals are affixed to the replacement components.



1. Warning - Read the operator's manual.



1. Cutting or pinching hazard. Stay away from moving parts.



1. Stay away from moving parts.  
2. Keep all guards and shields in place.

Decal	Description	Part Number	Quantity
A	Read Operator's Manual	00.0619	1
B	Warning, Pinch Point	00.0364	1
C	Moving Parts Hazard	00.0632	1

# GENERAL OPERATION

## Daily Inspection

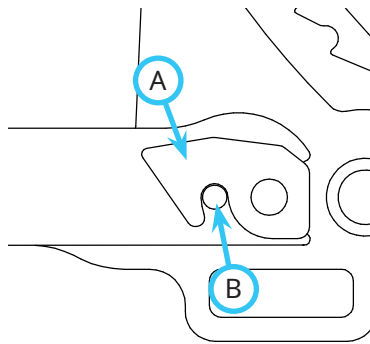
### **⚠ WARNING**

Always engage the parking brake, shut off the power unit engine, remove the ignition key, and ensure that all moving parts have come to a complete stop before inspecting the components, or attempting any repair or adjustment.

1. Park the machine on a level surface, with the engine shut off and all fluids cold.
2. Perform a visual inspection of both the power unit and the attachment. Look for loose or missing hardware, damaged components, or signs of wear.
3. Inspect the cutting blade for wear and repair as required.

## Attaching

1. Drive the power unit slowly forward into the hitch arms of the attachment. Align the lift arms of the power unit with the attachment hitch arms by raising or lowering the front hitch and complete the engagement.
2. Once completely engaged, move the front hitch latch lever\* to the locked position. The latch (A) must lock over the attachment's hitch arm pin (B).



## Detaching

1. Park the power unit on a level surface and engage the parking brake.\*
2. Lower the attachment to the ground.
3. Disengage the front hitch locking lever.\*
4. Restart the power unit and slowly back away from the attachment. A side to side movement of the steering wheel may aid in disengagement.

## Operating Procedure

Before operation, perform the daily inspection, set the sod cutter to the desired cutting depth, and disengage the power unit's weight transfer system (if equipped).

Move the power unit and sod cutter into position and lower the sod cutter to the ground. Apply light down pressure to the front hitch (do not place in float) and drive forward slowly to begin cutting sod.

NOTE: depending on the ground and type of sod, shallower depths may be more difficult to start the cut. Work the power unit back and forth to allow the cutting blade to penetrate the root bed.

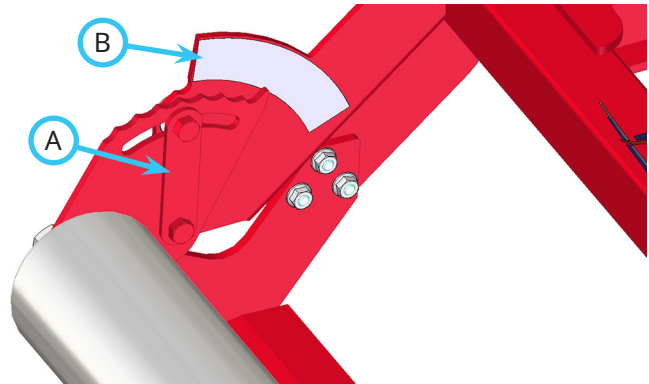
Keep light down pressure applied to the front hitch and sod cutter to allow the roller and cutting blade to maintain the cutting depth. While making the cutting pass, adjust the front hitch height as necessary to allow for uneven ground and changing soil conditions.

If the blade is pushed out of the ground when making shallow cuts in dense root networks, change the roller depth setting for a deeper cut.

Do not make sharp turns with the cutting blade in the ground.

## Setting the Cutting Depth

1. Loosen the flange nuts on the left and right depth adjustment clamps (A).



2. Rotate the roller until the depth indicator points to the desired depth on the height adjustment decal (B).
3. Tighten the flange nuts to secure the roller at the chosen cutting depth.

\*Refer to power unit operator's manual for operation of power unit controls.

# SERVICE

## ⚠ WARNING

Always engage the parking brake, shut off the power unit engine, remove the ignition key, and ensure that all moving parts have come to a complete stop before inspecting the components, or attempting any repair or adjustment.

## ATTENTION

If any component requires replacement, use only original Ventrac replacement parts.

## ATTENTION

The cutting blade is sharp. Always wear gloves when working with the cutting blade.

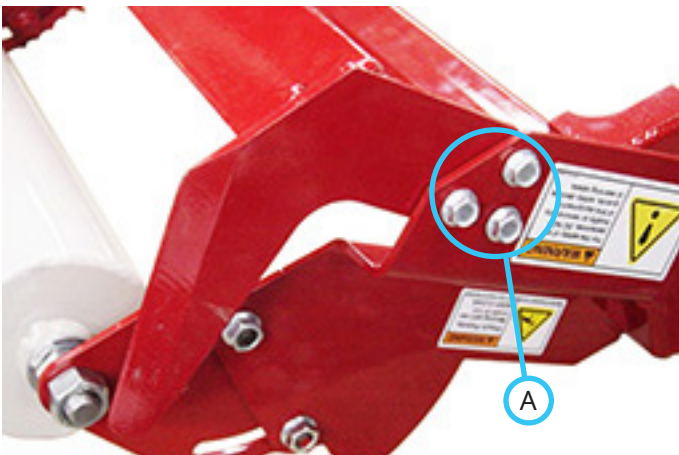
### Cleaning and General Maintenance

For best results, and to maintain the finish of the sod cutter, clean or wash the sod cutter after each use to remove dirt, grass, and debris buildup. Apply a thin layer of environmentally friendly vegetable or corn oil to the cutting blade to prevent rusting.

### Cutting Blade Replacement

When the cutting blade becomes dull, it will need to be replaced.

1. Turn the sod cutter upside down on a clean level surface.
2. Remove the six flange bolts (A) that fasten the cutting blade to the main frame.



3. Remove the old cutting blade and position the new cutting blade in place.
4. Reinstall the six flange bolts and nuts to secure the cutting blade to the main frame. Torque the bolts to 24 Nm (210 in-lbs).

### Storage

#### Preparing the Attachment for Storage

1. Clean the sod cutter.
2. Inspect for loose or missing hardware, damaged components, or signs of wear. Repair or replace any damaged or worn components.
3. Inspect the cutting blade edges and replace the cutting blade if it has become dulled.
4. Apply a thin layer of environmentally friendly vegetable or corn oil to the cutting blade to prevent rusting.
5. Inspect the safety decals. Replace any decals that are faded, illegible, or missing.
6. Inspect the painted components for chips, scratches, or rust. Clean and touch up the surfaces as needed.

#### Removing the Attachment from Storage

1. Clean the attachment to remove any accumulated dust or debris.
2. Inspect the attachment as instructed in the Daily Inspection section of this manual.

### Maintenance Chart

Action	Daily	After each use
Inspect for loose or missing hardware	•	
Inspect for damaged components	•	
Inspect the safety decals	•	
Clean and oil the cutting blade		•

# SPECIFICATIONS

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## Dimensions

Overall Height . . . . .	26 cm (10-1/4 inches)
Overall Length . . . . .	62.2 cm (24-1/2 inches)
Overall Width . . . . .	63.5 cm (25 inches)
Weight . . . . .	17.2 kg (38 pounds)
Cutting Width . . . . .	61 cm (24 inches)
Cutting Depth . . . . .	0 - 6.35 cm (0 - 2-1/2 inches)

## Features

- A heavy duty steel frame
- A maintenance free roller
- An adjustable roller for easy setting of cutting depth

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