

SAFETY SENSE

Planting The Seeds Of Safety In Your Lawn and Garden

(NAPSA)—This much is clear—Americans love to garden.

According to the National Gardening Association, eight out of 10 U.S. households—that's about 85 million—participated in one or more types of do-it-yourself indoor and outdoor lawn and garden activities in 2002.

Many derive pleasure from being outside and adding to the appearance and value of their property. For others, it is a rewarding form of exercise. Still others see it as an activity that can involve the entire family.

According to the experts at John Deere, a commitment to safety should guide your lawn and garden activities. They offer these safety suggestions and buying tips for lawn and garden equipment:

- When mowing the lawn, always make sure small children are under the supervision of an adult.

- Don't give small children rides on mowers. This may send the message that mowers are toys.

- Also, make sure you wear proper clothing when you are mowing the lawn. Always wear long pants, a tucked-in shirt and good shoes with lots of traction. No loose clothes that might catch.

- Make sure any equipment you purchase or use has safety features that are easy to follow.

- When purchasing, look for easy-access for maintenance of equipment.

- The John Deere experts also suggest you make sure the equip-



When maintaining the lawn, experts say safety should always be top of mind.

ment is comfortable to use for long periods of time.

- If the equipment is hand-held, is it lightweight?

- Are there cushioned hand-holds, straps or seats?

- If tools are electric or gas-powered, do they have anti-vibration technology?

- Is a tool right for the size of the area it will be used on?

- Does it come with all the features that you will need?

- Can you try it out or test-drive it?

- And remember to always check and see if equipment you've purchased requires additional safety equipment such as eye and ear protection.

By following these simple guidelines, you and your family can have a safe and productive season.