Use lawn equipment, power saws with caution

The safety professionals at Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Image Always (UL), recommended that you follow these safety precautions when using lawn or garden equipment and power saws:

Before using any appliance or tool, read and follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that come with the product.

uct.

Malways look for the familiar
UL Listing Mark before purchasing a power tool, garden appliance or any other electrical product. The mark on a product means that representative samples of that product have been tested to atringent safety standards with regard to fire, electric shock and related safety hazards.

ras.
■ Before each use, inspect • Before each use, inspect power tools and electric garden appliances for frayed power cords and cracked or broken cas-ings. If the product is damaged, Don't use it or attempt to repair it yourself. Return the product or have a qualified repair shop

examine it.

Always wear proper attire.
Keep your clothing, hands and feet away from cutting blades at all times. Never wear jewelry when working with tools. Always wear safety glasses.

Pay attention to warning markings. Don't allow tools to get wet unless they are labeled immersible. When using tools outside, make sure they are appropriate for outdoor use.

Never alter a product or remove safety features such as blade guards or electric plug grounding pins.

Use only properly rated outdoor extension cords with outdoor extension cords with outdoor extension cords with out old or grand appliance to make

tool or garden appliance to make sure it's "off" before you plug it

in. Unplug all portable electrically operated power tools when not in use. These tools contain electricity even when turned "off" but still plugged in. ■ Before operating saws with guards, make sure they are in place and in proper working order.

Power Saws

Buy a saw with the guard you feed most comfortable using, and keep it on the saw at all times. Some types, such as sabre saws, cannot be designed with a guard; he especially careful to avoid contact with the blade. Before operating saws with guards, make sure they are in place and in proper working order.

Make sure the switch is in the "off position before plugging in a power saw.

Always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid "kickback. Kickback can occur when the blade jams or binds in the wood and throws the saw toward the operator (portable power saws) or the wood toward the operator goaipment).

While operating the saw, keep the cord mway from the cutting area and position it so that it will not be caught on the work piece.

m Make sure you use the right saw for your task. For example, don't use a circular saw for cut-ting tree limbs or logs. A chain-

to operate the tool.

A properly sharpened saw blade provides better and safer performance. Sharp blades minimize stalling and kickback.

Keep children away from the work area at all times. Never allow them to operate power

Blow them to operate powers awa.

If Use rubber or other non-ally matting around the work area to prevent trips and falls. Keep the floor area clear of debris.

If Wear safety glasses, but don't wear jewelry while cutting. Watches, bracelets and long sleoves can get acught in the saw's moving parts.

If you need to use an extension cord with your saw make sure it is in good condition and make sure it's heavy enough to

GARDENING CALENDAR

saw is the appropriate tool in this case.

Saw blades that are chipped, bent, or in any way damaged should be discarded inmediately.

Buse clamps or a vise to hold work in place. It's safer than using your hands and frees both to operate the tool.

A properly sharpened are.

A properly sharpened are. around the saw.

Lawn mowers, power tools and
garden appliances, like any
household appliance, need to be
maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer's
instructions. Following these
precautions and the manufacturer's instructions to enjoy longer,
safer use of your spring cleaning
coulument.

safor use of your spring cleaning equipment. For more information on UL's spring safety campaign and tight so nafe use of ladders, extension cords and GFCls, visit UL's Wes tile at www.ul.com. Underwriters Laboratories Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit product safety certification organization that has been working for a safer world by evaluating products, materials and systems for more than a century. More than 18 billion UL Marks appear on products cach year.

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■ Use and store power tools and garden appliances away from water sources to avoid electric shock. Never use power tools and appliances in the rain.

■ I liave a qualified technician install ground fault circuit interputer (GFCI) receptacles in all outdoor outlots. After installs into, test your GFCIs monthly.

■ Never carry an appliance the cord, and never yank the cord, always grasp the plug not the wire. Keep the cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges.

Power Saws

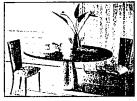
■ A blade guard is a necessity.

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PERFECT POTTING

Garden professionals from Mexico Direct, a unique pottery wholesaler in Northville, will be wholesaler in Northville, will be discussing how to choose and plant the perfect potted garden at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17 at Art Van, 29905 Saven Mile Road in Livonia. Tips will be given on how to pick out the correct pottery for specific plants. Guests attending the seminar will receive a free gift and be registered to win e flowerpot that 2199. FARMINGTON

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Garden Club will, have their blannual rummage, garege and plant sale 9 s.m. 4 p.m., Thursday and Fiddy, May 17 and 18, at the Warner Manslon Carriage House on Grand River west of Farmington Road.

The evening herb study group at the University of Michigan Matthael Botanical Gardens will matnael Botanical Gardens will car-pool at 11 a.m. Soturday, May 12, to Renaissance Acres in Whitemore Lake. The organic herb farm has been in operation for 20 years. The group will be taken on a tour and allowed to browse for plants. Meet in Room 125 of the Matthael Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road. Members and guests are wel-come. For information, call (734) 449-2334.



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