

Ethanol Makes for a Sticky Situation in Repair Shops

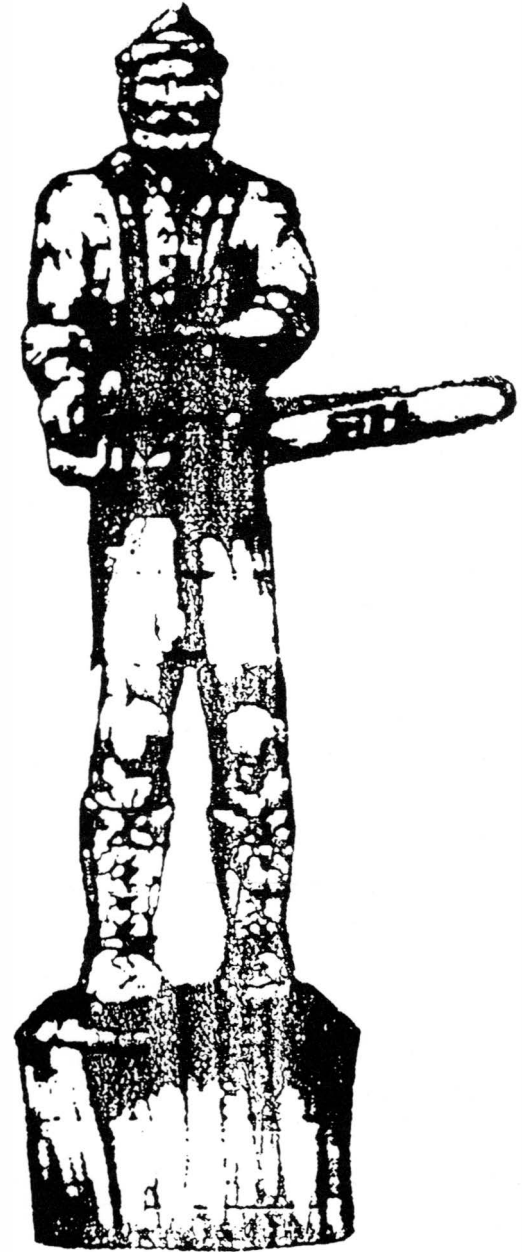
While reducing automobile emissions and being a boom for American farmers, ethanol is causing long waits at lawn-mower shops. Common problems are clogged carburetors, fuel lines melting into jelly, and engines simply not starting. This problem is occurring in new equipment as well as older equipment. Equipment stored for just one winter can become virtually useless due to the ethanol sitting in the tank for a period of time. This has become such a problem since the 10% ethanol has come to market. Putting the 10%-25% ethanol gas in your carburetor is like putting salt water in your carburetor. Summer temperature fluctuations cause water to accumulate in the fuel tank creating starting and fuel problems. The change in temperature with hot days and cool nights promotes condensation and ethanol seems to be aggravating the problem.



This problem is more likely in engines that are left sitting for months because ethanol fuel begins to damage carburetors and fuel lines. Engines that are run on a frequent basis seem to be tolerant of the ethanol-laced fuel.

Manufacturers and dealers are pulling together to deal with this ordeal by recommending that only premium gasoline be used in power lawnmowers and 2-cycle equipment. Older neoprene fuel lines are being phased out and replaced with different materials that resist degradation. This does not compensate for the damage caused by the increased ethanol in the fuel.

PLEASE NOTE: there is no shelf life with gasolines that contain ethanol.



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