

Quick Troubleshooting Guide for Small Engines

Problem	Possible Causes	Possible Solution(s)
Won't Start	Expired gas or incorrect gas type	If gas is more than one month old, add fresh gas (and oil if applicable)
		Remove fuel, replace gas line, and add fresh gas (and oil if applicable)
	Power Switch	Switch to the "on" position
	Closed Gas Line	Open the gas line
	Open Choke	Adjust or close the choke
	Cracked/Broken Primer Bulb	Replace the primer bulb
	Priming	Prime if you haven't already
		If over primed, wait for 5 minutes and try to start again without additional priming
	Clogged/ Dirty Air Filter	Clean or replace air filter
Expired Spark Plug	Change spark plug	
Carburetor Gunk	Drain/Clean Carburetor	
Sputtering or rough start	Expired gas or incorrect gas type	If gas is more than one month old, add fresh gas (and oil if applicable)
		Remove fuel, replace gas line, and add fresh gas (and oil if applicable)
	Open Choke	Adjust or close the choke
	Clogged/ Dirty Air Filter	Clean or replace air filter
Smells like burning (bad)	Oil (4-stroke engines)	Check oil gauge, add oil if low or empty
		Remove oil if overfilled
Won't stay on/ cuts off	Open Choke	Adjust or close the choke
	Expired gas or incorrect gas type	If gas is more than one month old, add fresh gas (and oil if applicable)
		Remove fuel, replace gas line, and add fresh gas (and oil if applicable)
	Idle Screw (adjusts the volume of fuel allowed into the engine)	Adjust idle screw on carburetor - Turning the screw clockwise (in) reduces the amount of fuel delivered to the engine
Adjust idle screw on carburetor - Turning the screw counter clockwise (out) increases the amount of fuel delivered to the engine		

