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Bühlertann, Germany

Slope mowing: Experts from AS-Motor provide tips on different mowers

Mowing on slopes is demanding – depending on the machine, procedures vary in ways you should be aware of.

Hand-guided, in ride-on operation, or remote-controlled: What is the best way to work a slope? What features should a ride-on mower have for use on steep terrain? And why should the range of a remote-controlled mower not be fully utilised even on known areas? The experts at AS-Motor Germany GmbH & Co KG have put together a few practical tips that not only make work easier, but also ensure greater safety while mowing slopes.

Hand-guided mowers

After a certain incline, hand-guided devices should always work transverse to the slope. This is less strenuous for the operator than it is to guide the mower up and downhill. Turns should be executed uphill as the device can accelerate when facing downhill; in extreme cases the mower can even swing around. The user should not walk directly in the track of the mower; rather, the steeper the slope, the more the operator should support himself towards the slope by walking a little lower. Pivoting the handlebar slightly downhill – as when working along a fence or a building – significantly improves the ease of operation.

Ride-on mowers

Because the operator is situated on a ride-on mower, it must always be suitable for the slope. A low centre of gravity and special features such as all-wheel drive, differential lock, and/or special tyres ensure that the mower maintains traction even on steep inclines. Information regarding mower stability must always be known. The tipping threshold of a ride-on mower is defined as when steering is turned all the way in one direction; the device cannot overturn unless this stability value is exceeded. But differences exist even among similar models, as illustrated by the AS-Motor Sherpa family: the AS 915 Sherpa 2WD and AS 920 Sherpa 2WD have a stability of 18 degrees transverse to the slope, the AS 940 Sherpa 4WD has a stability of 20 degrees and the XL version and remote-controlled RC model have a stability of 21 degrees in ride-on mode. If the AS 940 Sherpa 4WD RC is operated remotely, stability is 33 degrees.

When terrain is steep, the operator's sitting position becomes difficult to maintain when working across the slope. This is why ride-on mowers must move uphill and downhill on slopes. Operators should be careful to avoid uneven soil that can unintentionally cause the mower to lean at an extreme angle, particularly when turning. However, since up and downhill movement in ride-on operation also places physical demands on the operator, it is particularly advantageous to have a ride-on mower that can be switched to remote-control operation in steep terrain.

Remote-controlled mowers

Remote-controlled devices enable mowing both transverse to the slope and up and downhill. Caution should be taken when driving on fresh cuttings which can reduce traction, thus risking mower slippage. When working crosswise to the slope, mowing should be done from top to bottom so that cut grass is deposited above the mower. Furthermore, it is important not to walk below or in front of the mower. In the case of rotary mowers the right side should also be avoided, as the blades' clockwise rotation accelerates cuttings and foreign objects to the right and right rear. Thus the safest position for the user is behind the machine on the left side. Remote-controlled mowers' range should never be fully utilised, even when mowing well-known terrain. Here's why: Only the operator who walks close to the mower is able to detect foreign objects in good time.

In addition to these tips, the operating manuals for the AS-Motor devices provide useful information. Operating manuals are mandatory reading for safe and proper use of the mower; should the details cited here deviate from the information in the operating manuals, the information in the operating manuals takes priority. This information can be accessed at www.as-motor.com. AS-Motor's YouTube channel also provides product safety videos on various mowers: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLqXsENxtcHxyEQ4zUO147g>.

(Intro text & continuous text: approx. 4,139 characters, including spaces)



YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLqXsENxtcHxyEQ4zUO147g>

Product Safety Video AS 901:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5HDZ4pQAqA>

About AS-Motor Germany GmbH & Co. KG:

Headquartered in Bühlertann, Germany, AS-Motor Germany GmbH & Co. KG has developed and manufactured special motorised devices for garden and landscape care since 1959. AS-Motor devices are engineered for extreme conditions such as high growth and inclines exceeding 35 degrees. The family company has more than 130 employees and manufactures the majority of its components itself. Additional information is provided at www.as-motor.de.

Photographic material:

(Screen resolution only. Request print resolution at luisa.oesterle@as-motor.de)

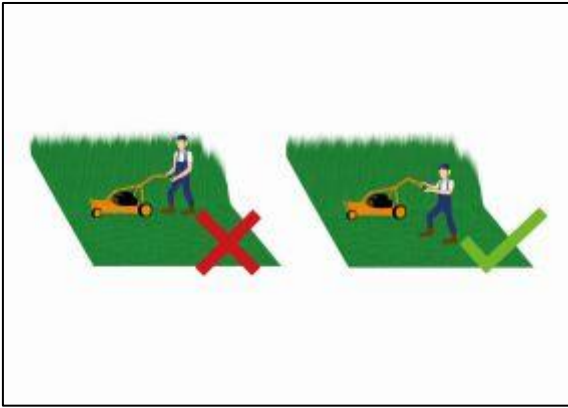


Photo 1: When working with a hand-guided mower, it is more convenient to walk below the track

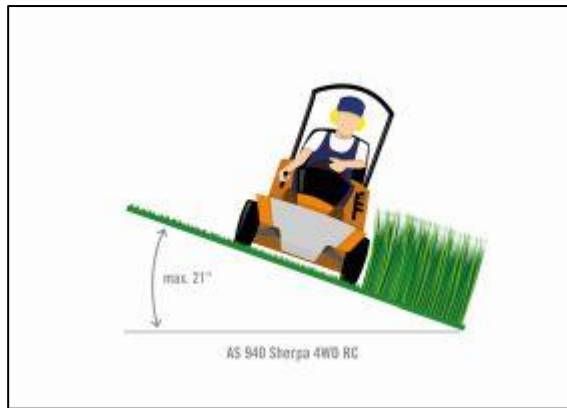


Photo 2: Information regarding ride-on mower stability transverse to the slope must be known

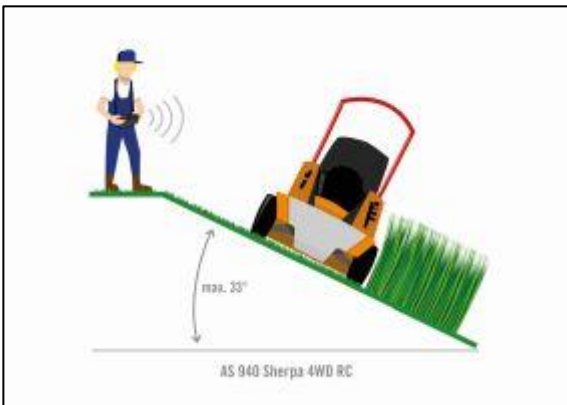


Photo 3: Stability information varies among similar mowers and depends on the operating mode

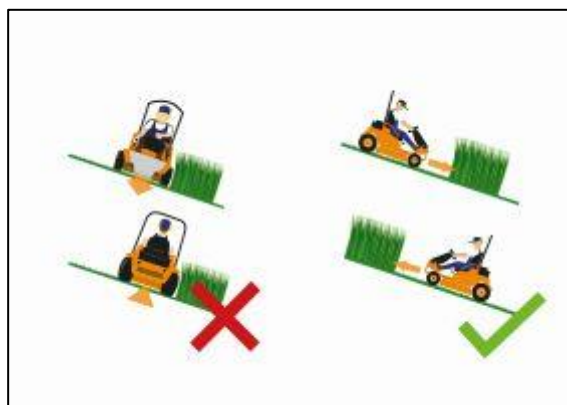


Photo 4: On steep terrain, working with the ride-on mower transverse to the slope is strenuous. Driving up and downhill is thus the advised procedure

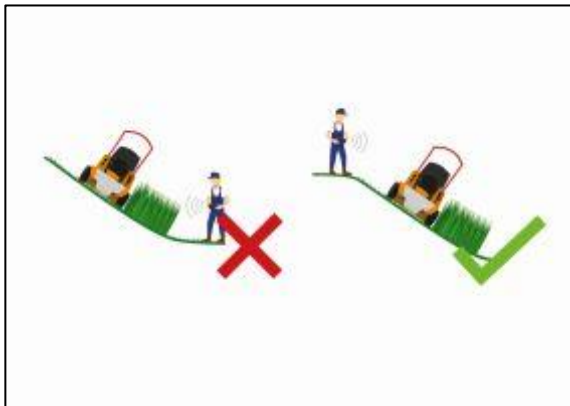


Photo 5: The operator should stand above a remote-controlled machine

Photo 6: Do not walk below or in front of remote-controlled mowers such as the AS 751 RC crawler mower

Photo credits: AS-Motor Germany GmbH & Co. KG

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you can use this information for your reporting, we would be pleased to receive a reference and/or a specimen copy. If you desire an exclusive professional article concerning this topic, or a specific aspect of this topic, please contact us.

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