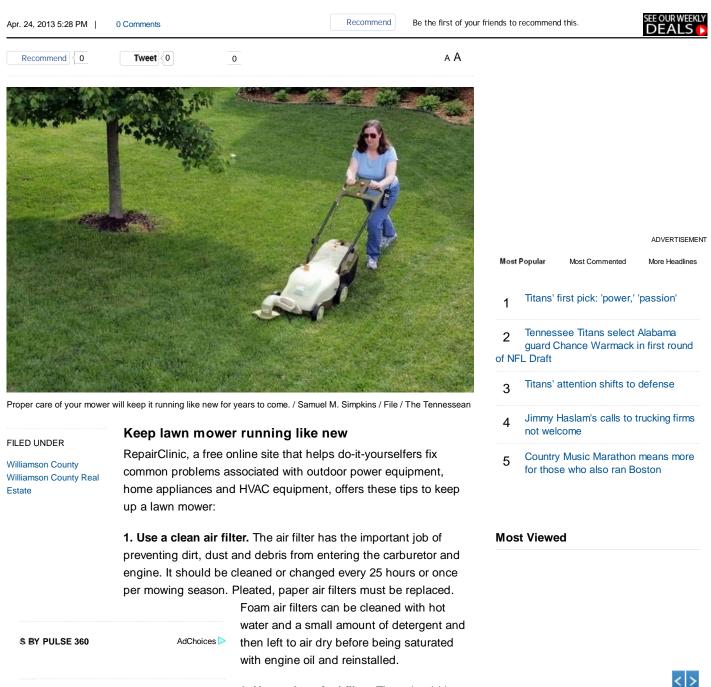
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## Keep your lawn mower running like new



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2. Use a clean fuel filter. They should be

replaced; they cannot be cleaned.

- **3. Replace the oil.** Engine oil should be replaced at least once a season or every 25 hours of use. Every eight hours of use, check it. Like vehicle engine oil, it should be golden or amber in color. As it ages, it darkens. Most small engine repair shops and auto parts stores have a free recycling program for used oil.
- 4. Replace the spark plug. A spark plug should be replaced at least one per season. Over time, a spark plug's performance will degrade due to carbon build-up and a weakened electrode. This dramatically increases emissions, reduces engine performance and requires the engine to use more fuel.
- 5. Check the blade. Dull blades tear the grass, rather than cut cleanly. A blade should be sharpened every season and replaced every one to three years. If bends, dents and other damage are found, it should be replaced right away.
- **6. Check tire pressure.** Tires with varying pressure will result in uneven or poor cutting.
- **7. Clean the undercarriage.** After every use, use a hose to remove grass clippings and debris buildup in the undercarriage. Turn off the mower and disconnect the spark plug first.

## Buy or build water barrel

So you've added hundreds of dollars worth of plants to your yard. Now you've got to water them. Save green while going green with a rain barrel. Not only will it cut down on your water use, which means smaller bills, it will also help slow stormwater runoff.

You can buy a 55-gallon rain barrel from The Cumberland River Compact for \$40 at cumberlandrivercompact.org/make-a-difference /rain-barrel — or you can make your own. The website gives a list of supplies and instructions.

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