

PROGRAM PITSTOP

It is a game spoken of only in hushed tones and guarded whispers. A game so intricate, so lifelike, so boundless in its possibilities that there are forces in the world who would rather it remained lost to history than risk losing it on mankind once again.

The game, dear child, is *Advanced Lawnmower Simulator* – an artefact of YS history that is surely on a par with the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Gutenberg Bible or the Hale & Pace Christmas Special as a defining totem of our enlightened age. The game was, of course, the work of famed taxidermist and jazz dancer **Duncan MacDonald** – himself no stranger to the world of lawnmowing, having purchased one from an advert in the post office window in 1987. Though many have tried, none have been able to replicate Duncan's feat of software alchemy. Until now.

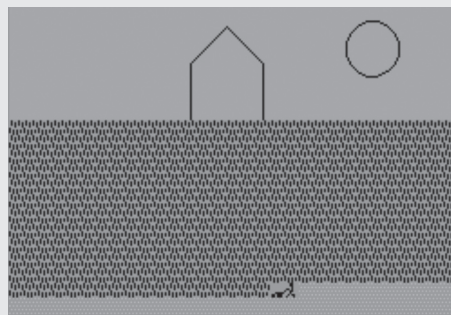
Thanks to decades of NASA science, the full and unexpurgated program listing for *Advanced Lawnmower Simulator* is here. Type



It is 1804, and a small boy revels in the giddy joys of primitive lawnmowing. What would he think of *Advanced Lawnmower Simulator*? Evil sorcery, that's what

it in at your discretion, but be warned – some who have attempted this feat claim to have suffered convulsions and spasms of the buttocks as the last vestiges of MacDonald's genius dance from their synapses and out through their fingertips, a wisp of a madman's dream lost in the virtual ether. Yet more have been driven utterly mad by the arcane workings of this infernal code, with the runes of GOSUB and INKEY opening portals to gibbering, hellish dimensions beyond mortal ken. Even more, it is said, have typed it all in only to find it doesn't work properly because they missed out a semicolon somewhere.

What does your destiny hold? Your journey awaits. Will you take the first step?



Early on in the game, things look deceptively easy

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1 DATA 68,65,65,17,128,170,17
0,40,170,0,65,0,170,0,0,31,110,110,2
4,24,8,104,152,16,44,66
5 GO SUB 200
9 RESTORE 1
10 FOR n=USR "a" TO USR "d" +7
20 READ a: POKE n,a
30 NEXT n
99 PAPER 5: CLS
100 FOR n=8 TO 21: PRINT PAPER
4: INK 0; AT n,0: "AAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAA": NEXT n
102 PLOT 100,112: DRAW 0,30: DR
AU 20,20: DRAW 20,-20: DRAW 0,-3
0: CIRCLE 200,150,15
105 LET EXP=INT (RND*3)
110 FOR n=21 TO 8 STEP -1: FOR
m=30 TO 0 STEP -1
115 PRINT PAPER 4: INK 0; AT n,m
; "C"
116 BEEP .005,-12: BEEP .002,-5
117 IF INKEY$<>"m" THEN GO TO 1
119 IF exp=2 AND n=18 AND m=12
THEN GO TO 800
120 PRINT PAPER 4: INK 7; AT n,m
; "B"
130 NEXT m: NEXT n
140 PRINT PAPER 0: INK 7; AT 14,
11: "WELL MOWN"
145 PAUSE 20: BEEP .5,12: GO SU
B 500
150 PRINT AT 17,6: "Press 'Q' fo
r menu"
160 IF INKEY$="q" THEN GO TO 5
170 GO TO 160
200 BORDER 4: INK 0: PAPER 4: C
LS
201 LET a$="CAMPARI GRASSMASTER
": LET b$="DAF TURFOMATIC": LET
c$="ACME MEGA-CUT 3000": LET d$
="ACME LAWN-ACE": LET e$="FLYMO G
RASSCHUM": LET f$="PATIO SPRINT
TTE"

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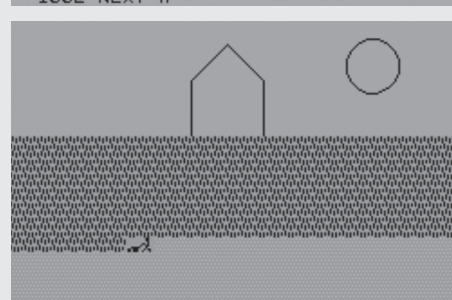
210 PRINT PAPER 7: INK 0: FLASH
1; AT 4,4: "*****"
212 PRINT PAPER 7: INK 0: FLASH
1; AT 3,4: "LAWN MOWER SIMULATO
R"
214 PRINT PAPER 7: INK 0: FLASH
1; AT 2,4: "*****"
220 PRINT AT 6,4: "THIS IS A POW
ERFUL AND": AT 7,4: "ACCURATE LAWN
MOWING"
225 PRINT AT 8,4: "SIMULATION.":
AT 9,4: "CHOOSE FROM SEVERAL": AT
10,4: "DIFFERENT MACHINES AND": AT
11,4: "GO GET THAT GRASS"
230 PRINT AT 13,4: "Press releve
nt number."
240 FOR n=15 TO 20: PRINT INK 7
; AT n,4: "-14: NEXT n
250 PRINT AT 15,6: a$: AT 16,6: b$
; AT 17,6: c$:
260 PRINT AT 18,6: d$: AT 19,6: e$
; AT 20,6: f$: INKEY$
300 IF Z$="1" THEN GO TO 300
305 IF Z$="2" THEN GO TO 300
310 IF CODE Z$<49 OR CODE Z$>54
THEN BEEP .5,5: GO TO 300
330 BORDER 4: PAPER 4: INK 0: C
LS
350 IF Z$="1" THEN PRINT "I'
M SORRY, I'M AFRAID THAT THE" A$
"IS BROKEN AT THE MOMENT": PAUS
E 200: GO TO 800
355 IF Z$="2" THEN PRINT "I'
M SORRY, I'M AFRAID THAT THE" B$
"IS BROKEN AT THE MOMENT": PAUS
E 200: GO TO 200
360 IF Z$="3" THEN PRINT "I'
M SORRY, I'M AFRAID THAT THE" C$
"IS BROKEN AT THE MOMENT": PAUS
E 200: GO TO 200
365 IF Z$="4" THEN PRINT "I'
M SORRY, I'M AFRAID THAT THE" D$
"IS BROKEN AT THE MOMENT": PAUS
E 200: GO TO 200
370 IF Z$="5" THEN PRINT "I'
M SORRY, I'M AFRAID THAT THE" E$
"IS BROKEN AT THE MOMENT": PAUS
E 200: GO TO 200
380 IF Z$="6" THEN PRINT "TH
E MOWER IS WORKING WELL": "PRE S
ING 'M' ENGAGES THE MOTOR.": "RE
LEASING 'M' DISENGAGES IT": "PRE
SS ANY KEY TO START..."
390 PAUSE 0: PAUSE 0: RETURN
400 BORDER 0: PAPER 0: INK 7: C
LS
404 PLOT 0,0: DRAW 255,0: DRAW
0,175: DRAW -255,0: DRAW 0,-175
405 PLOT 12,85: DRAW 224,0: DRA
W 0,12: DRAW -224,0: DRAW 0,-12
410 DIM g$(10,100)
420 LET g$(1)= "WELL D
ONE, YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF A CO
RNERED BEEF SANDWICH!"
425 LET g$(2)= "A BIT
OF A SHODDY JOB, THAT. DO IT AGA
IN!"
430 LET g$(3)= "YOU'VE BROKE
N THE MOWER, YOU STUPID LITTLE G
IT. GO AWAY AND DON'T DARKEN MY
DOOR AGAIN."
435 LET g$(4)= "TEA AND CAKE
S FOR YOU, MATEY. THAT WAS A SUP
ER BIT OF GRASSWORK. IN FACT, HE
RE'S A TENNER!"

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540 LET g$(5)= "MOWER TESTER
CHUCK SAYS 'OH OH! YOU SURE BOUG
HT THE LAWN THAT TIME! I DON'T K
NOW YOU!"
545 LET g$(6)= "CALL THAT A
MOW-JOB (oo-er)? I COULD DO BETT
ER WITH MY GRANNIES NAIL CLIPPER
S!"
550 LET g$(7)= "WORRA CUT!
VIDAL SASSOON'S NOT A PATCH ON Y
OUR GOOD SELF WE'LL SAY!"
555 LET g$(8)= "THAT'S A BIT
OF AN ERRATIC CUT. HELEN KELLER
COULD HAVE DONE BETTER!"
560 LET g$(9)= "BOING BOING BO
ING BOING BOING BOING BOING BOIN
G"
565 LET g$(10)= "SUPER. SMAS
HING. LOVELY..... BENDY BULLIE
S ALL ROUND. SMASHING!"
600 LET U=INT (RND*10)+1
602 PRINT AT 20,4: "Press any ke
y to restart"
605 LET V=G$(U)
630 PRINT AT 10,2: U$(1 TO 27)
640 LET U$=U$(2 TO )+U$(1)
644 BEEP .04,12
645 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN GO TO 70
0
650 GO TO 630
700 RUN
800 PRINT FLASH 1: INK 2; AT n,m
; "C"
805 FOR l=0 TO 21: PRINT INK 2;
AT l,0: " "
810 FOR f=35 TO 15 STEP -5: BEE
P .002 f: NEXT f
815 NEXT l
820 BORDER 5: CLS
830 PRINT INK 0; AT 10,4: "YOU HA
VE BEEN KILLED"
840 PRINT INK
any key to restart"
850 IF INKEY$=" " THEN GO TO 649
860 RUN
1000 FOR n=1 TO 10
1001 PRINT g$(n)
1002 NEXT n

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Getting closer, but what perils lie ahead for our brave mower?