



Youth Worker Safety

Landscape & Horticulture Services Industry

In late spring and early summer, many high school and college youth start summer jobs. Landscape employers hire young people for outdoor work. Outdoor workers are at risk of injury from a variety of potential hazards. This fact sheet helps identify potential hazards and provide solutions to specific activities within the landscaping and horticultural services industry.

Work Environment:

Activities

- Planting trees and shrubs
- Lawn work
- Work area housekeeping
- Mowing
- Blowing
- General clean-up
- Pruning
- Fertilizing
- Work crew transport

Primary Hazards

- Cuts and amputations
- Heat stress
- Lifting & awkward postures
- Eye injury
- Noise
- Pesticides
- Chemicals
- Slips and trips
- Falls
- Insects, animals, snakes
- Motor vehicles

Solutions:

Clothing & Protective Equipment

- Wear work boots, long socks, pants, and sleeves
- Wear gloves
- Wear eye protection when using or working around blowers and mowers
- Wear hearing protection when using powered equipment
- Wear lightweight/light-colored clothing
-

Tools & Equipment

- Inspect tools and equipment before use
- Keep clear of rotating mower and brush cutting blades

Other Job Safety Issues

- Get help lifting/use safe-lifting devices
- Read/obey the SDS
- Train on the chemicals that will be used
- Keep the job site clean
- Use sunscreen
- Drink plenty of water
- Replace salts and minerals

Employers must be aware that certain work activities are restricted for workers under the age of 18 by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Wage and Hour Division. Call 855-464-4623 or visit www.michigan.gov/wagehour.

Or contact: Consultation Education and Training Division
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration
7150 Harris Drive, PO Box 30643, Lansing, Michigan
517-322-1809 or www.michigan.gov/miosha



Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
www.osha.gov/youngworkers/index.html