

MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Youth Worker Safety

Landscape and Horticulture Services Industry



In late spring and early summer, many high school and college youth start summer jobs. Landscape employers often 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.

Employers must be aware of work activities restricted for workers under the age of 18 by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Wage and Hour Division. For more information visit the Wage and Hour Division website: www.michigan.gov/wagehour.

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, trips, and 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 Safety Data Sheets (SDS) when using chemicals
- Train on the chemicals that will be used
- Keep the job site clean
- Use sunscreen
- Drink plenty of water
- Before, During & After work
- During long periods of heat exposure drink an electrolyte-replacement beverage

For additional assistance, please contact the General Industry Safety and Health Division at 517-284-7750 or the Consultation Education and Training Division at 517- 284-7720. Construction Safety and Health Standards can be viewed on the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards.

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.



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