Hand Weeding

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts made of breathable materials
- Bend safely using proper bending technique
- Lift safely using proper lifting technique
- Carry containers required distance without straining
- Physical stamina to perform job for up to 50 minutes (12+ yrs)
- Attention span long enough to complete work
- Received training on safe use of cutting tools (12+ yrs)
- Maintain two-way communication link
- Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times



Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Provide safe transport to the field
- Confirm re-entry standards are followed
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Provide appropriate training on the use of cutting/hoeing tools
- Ensure youth limits weight of load lifted to less than 25% of body weight
- Ensure cutting/hoeing tools properly sized to youth (12+ yrs)
- Demonstrate how to hand weed safely

Supervision

Note: Youth under 12 years old should not use cutting tools

7-9 yrs	Constant supervision (Limit work to 15 minutes)
10-11 yrs	Constant supervision (Limit work to 30 minutes)
12-13 yrs	Constant supervision progressing to intermittent
14-15 yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic
16+ yrs	Periodic supervision

Hazards



Slippery/ uneven surfaces | Repetitive motion | Chemicals | Sharp objects | Sun/heat

Protective Strategies



Non-skid shoes | Gloves | Handwashing | Sun protection | Insect repellent



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