Harvesting Tree Fruit

Hired Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines



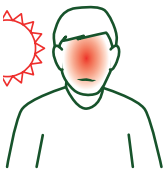
Main Hazards



Heavy Lifting



Risk of Falling



Heat Stress

Remember



Eye & Sun Protection



Non-skid Shoes



Good Handwashing

Work Conditions

- Be aware of all allergies or medical conditions
- Provide safe transport to/from field
- Follow reentry standards
- Ensure work area is as free from hazards as possible
- Ensure climbing structure is stable
- Provide toilet facilities and water for drinking and washing hands
- Provide 10-minute break in shaded areas every hour
- Maintain 2-way communication

Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines (AYWG)

cultivatesafety.org/work

- Harvesting Tree Fruit – assess ability to safely perform task
- Bending, Lifting and Climbing – fact sheet and videos with proper bending, lifting and climbing techniques
- Use additional guidelines to assess ability to safely perform associated tasks, including:
  - Pruning Dwarf Fruit & Nut Trees
  - Operating an ATV, UTV or Tractor

Federal Regulations: Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

- Refer to Employer/Supervisor Responsibilities for links to detailed information on federal and state regulations for young workers
- Refer to Adolescents at Work guideline for general regulations
- Youth under 16 years may not work on a ladder or elevated structures more than 20 feet off the ground.
- Youth under 16 may not apply toxic agricultural chemicals (including cleaning or decontaminating equipment, disposal or return of empty containers)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) specifies age 18 for application of restricted use pesticides (exception exists, see **epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety**)
- If youth under 16 are assisting with tasks related to harvesting tree fruit such as clearing land, pruning trees or hauling product, check federal and state regulations for list of prohibited equipment
- Check state laws for additional regulations. State-specific information is available at **youthrules.dol.gov**

Training and Supervision

- Assess youth's ability to safely complete work
- Train employees on safe bending, lifting and climbing practices
- Do not allow people or objects below the ladder
- Have worker demonstrate ability to safely perform task
- Provide supervision

Other Factors

There are other factors that can impact a teen's ability to safely perform work. These factors include things like:

- Fatigue
- Substance use/abuse
- Emotional disturbances
- Stress

These factors can change from day to day, spurring the need to meet with youth prior to work each day and assess their condition and abilities. Visit **agsupervisortraining.org** for more information on assessing these factors.