This guide was created especially for young workers in the landscaping, greenhouse, and nursery industries. It provides important information about how to work safely, such as how to protect yourself from pesticides, heat stress, electrocution, and slips and trips. It also outlines what rights you have as a young worker.

Carry the guide in your pocket while you work and share it with your co-workers. Together, you can help ensure that your workplace is a safer place.

How old must I be to work in landscaping, greenhouses, or nurseries?
- Generally you must be at least 16-years-old.
- You must be at least 17 to drive a motor vehicle on a public road or highway as part of your job.
- You must be 18-years-old to work as an "outside helper", riding on a motor vehicle outside the cab on any public road or highway.

Heat Stress
When you are working in hot weather, the heat can make you ill. Heat stress is serious—as the symptoms get worse, they become life-threatening.

Know the early signs of heat stress, which include: dizziness, headache, fatigue, and cramps. Fainting, rapid breathing, slurred speech, nausea, confusion, or convulsions are more serious signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

To avoid heat stress:
- Drink at least one cup of water every 15 minutes.
- Take breaks in a shady or cool area.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol.

At the first serious signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke:
- Call 911 or the local emergency number—this is a potentially life-threatening emergency!
- Cool down, get to a shady or cool area, remove extra clothing, and drink water.

Pesticides
Pesticides are used in landscaping, greenhouses and nurseries to kill pests and can be dangerous to humans.

- Wear work clothes that help protect you from pesticides, such as a hat, long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes.
- You may not mix, load, apply, or handle pesticides unless your boss gives you special training and provides you with the protective equipment required on the label.
- If a pesticide is spilled or sprayed on you, wash yourself with soap and water, shampoo your hair, and put on clean clothes right away.
- If you begin to feel dizzy or sick to your stomach, or your eyes, skin, or throat burn, seek immediate medical care.
- Always wash work clothes separately from your family’s laundry.

Use these tips when lifting:
- Ask for help before lifting a heavy or awkward load.
- Use dollies and hand trucks to move large or heavy items.
- Keep the load close to your body and directly in front of you.
- Avoid lifting objects from the ground. When possible store heavy items at waist level.

USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of on-the-job deaths. You can keep yourself safe if you:
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Always inspect your vehicle before driving. Make sure that trailers and equipment are properly secured.
- Always stay alert and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.
- Do not eat, use a cell phone, or do other things that distract you while driving.
- Avoid riding in the bed of a pick-up or other trucks. Never ride outside of the cab if you are under 18-years-old.

TRIMMERS & MOWERS
- Wear gloves, safety glasses, earplugs, and boots to protect yourself.
- Keep your hands and body away from rotating blades until the motor is off and the blades are at a complete stop.
- Pick up objects from the lawn before mowing to prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones.
You have the right to:
• A safe and healthy workplace.
• Tell your employer about unsafe or unhealthy work conditions.
• Report unsafe or unhealthy work conditions to OSHA and do so confidentially.

You may not be fired or punished for:
• Raising concerns about workplace safety or health;
• Contacting OSHA;
• Participating in an OSHA inspection; or
• Refusing to work if 1) you are in serious and immediate danger, 2) you ask your employer to fix it and he doesn’t, 3) there is no time to call OSHA, and 4) there is no other way to do the job safely.

In order to get help you must report to OSHA within 30 days of the firing or other punishment.

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Equal Employment Opportunity
You have a right to work without being treated differently because of your race, skin color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or age (age 40 or older). Your employer cannot fire or punish you for reporting these concerns.