



DRAFT GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT 12: GARDENING & ALLOTMENT WORK

ACTIVITY ASSESSED		ASSESSMENT DATE	
GARDENING & ALLOTMENT WORK page 1 of 2		DECEMBER 2014	
ACTIVITY LOCATION	ALL SITES	DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT	ASSESSED BY
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons risk level: generally moderate except as indicated		MAY 2022	GRASSROOTS

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION	General public General manual handling Contact with soil- borne micro-organisms Hazardous plants Uneven ground and muddy slopes Structural hazards Slips, trips & falls Clearance by hand tools Clearing collapsed structures Clearing vegetation from structures Wheelbarrow work Creating raised beds Digging Using garden tools
HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
General public	All volunteers to look out for site users of all ages Where there is a large work group liaise with site manager concerning other site users
General manual handling	Plan in advance any lifting of heavy or awkward Train all in safe lifting, carrying & moving techniques Designate people to load and unload tools Provide carrying aids, e.g. wheelbarrow Heavy items will be carried between two people Limit number of tools any one individual carries
Contact with soil- borne micro-organisms	Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking Participants must be advised to have Tetanus inoculation Any cut received must be promptly washed and covered; over any broken skin before work; promptly wash and cover any cuts received Use tools/feet, not hands, to move and firm soil Wear leather or PVC protective gloves to prevent contact with soil
Hazardous plants	Be aware of plants with thorns/bristle/stinging hairs; some have poisonous sap/fruit
Uneven ground and muddy slopes	Sturdy footwear with a firm grip should be worn
Structural hazards	Assess site for old structures that may be rotten or have collapsed and been buried in soil or vegetation: timber frames/fencing/metal posts/wire & wire netting glass – broken glazing/ sheets/fragments metal - rusty nails/fragments rubble – bricks/concrete/tiles/slates terracotta – broken plant pots can be sharp Volunteers to be advised to look out for these where they may cause injury/trips/cuts/damage tools

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HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT	PRECAUTIONS
Slips, trips & falls	<p>Always leave tools in clear, safe place</p> <p>Inspect site and clear/ mark inherent trips hazards</p> <p>Previously cultivated ground may be uneven</p> <p>At low level old kerbs & edgings may be overgrown</p> <p>Collapsed structures should be identified</p> <p>Weeds/brambles are trip hazards</p> <p>Stumps/branches may all be present and overgrown</p>
Clearance by hand tools	<p>Wear gloves , long sleeves and long trousers</p> <p>Leave at least 10 metres between workers where hand tools will be used whilst wearing gloves</p> <p>Wash hands before eating , drinking or smoking</p>
Clearing collapsed structures	<p>Cutting wire: ensure wire is slack; cut using bolt cutters at arm's length</p> <p>Bricks: where necessary loosen using wrecking bar; sturdy footwear with a firm grip should be worn</p> <p>Volunteers to be advised that there may be metal/glass/slate/terracotta shards present</p>
Clearing vegetation from structures	<p>Brick walls</p> <p>check to see if there are any loose areas of brickwork</p> <p>there may be fallen bricks below</p> <p>there may be old nails/wires</p> <p>do not pull large sections of ivy away; it may have grown into/through the wall</p> <p>Greenhouses/cold frames</p> <p>Broken glass: wear gloves; place shards in bucket; dispose of in recycling bin if available; wrap in several layers of newspaper before disposing in general waste bin</p>
Wheelbarrow work	<p>Ensure tyres at correct pressure</p> <p>Ensure handle grips in place</p> <p>Advise volunteers to take only manageable load that can negotiate steps & uneven ground</p> <p>Take only load that can be tipped without strain</p>
Creating raised beds	<p>Use of carpentry tools: see GR17: Bird boxes & other small carpentry</p> <p>Moving large quantities of soil/compost: see General manual handling & Wheelbarrow work</p>
Digging	<p>Muscle strains from digging</p> <p>Rubble & rubbish: check before starting; use mattock where necessary</p> <p>Instruct in and ensure safe and correct digging/lifting techniques</p> <p>Rotate work to avoid injuries</p>
Using garden tools	<p>Tools are maintained by GrassRoots but check condition before use; any faulty/broken tools to be labelled for attention</p> <p>Be aware of the public and other workers</p> <p>Carry each tool in a safe manner</p> <p>Leave in a safe place/state when not using; ensure tool can be seen and cannot fall</p> <p>Rotate work to avoid fatigue/injuries</p>