


# GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT 26: YOUNG TREE & HEDGE MAINTENANCE

<b>ACTIVITY ASSESSED</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT DATE</b>	
Young Tree & Hedge Maintenance page 1 of 1	March 2022	
<b>ACTIVITY LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE FOR RE-ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>ASSESSED BY</b>
persons at risk: all volunteers; especially young persons		<b>GRASSROOTS</b>
risk level: generally moderate except as indicated		

<b>VOLUNTEER INFORMATION</b>	Access through/over fences Contact with grass & weed stalks Contact with branches/ twigs Muscle strains from pulling & cutting rank grass & weeds Slips, trips and falls Uneven ground and muddy slopes Contact with soil borne micro organisms Contact with infectious diseases – depending on location
<b>HAZARD OR HAZARDOUS EVENT</b>	<b>PRECAUTIONS</b>
General manual handling	Some work sites maybe remote from the access point Designate people to load and unload tools Provide carrying aids, e.g. wheelbarrow, if necessary Limit number of tools any one individual carries
Access through/over fences	Access is usually through gates or over stiles Ensure less able volunteers have assistance Occasionally access will be by stepladder: leader to check beforehand and volunteers advised in case there are issues that preclude their taking part in the task
Contact with grass & weed stalks	Advise of risk to eyes from grass & weed stalks Eye protection should be worn
Contact with branches/ twigs	Advise of risk to eyes from twigs Advise of risk from thorns, especially from blackthorns that infect easily
Muscle strains from pulling & cutting rank grass & weeds	Advise volunteers that tools should be used to minimise heavy work from pulling rank grass Volunteers may choose to use kneelers or stoop to work & should be advised wrt back strain & taking rests as appropriate Rotate work to avoid injuries
Slips, trips and falls	Rank vegetation is hazardous wrt tripping Always leave tools in clear, safe place Inspect site and clear/ mark inherent trip hazards
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; cover 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