

Landscaping & Horticulture PPE Matrix



Task/Activity	Potential Hazards	Required PPE	Notes/Additional Safety Measures
Mowing (walk-behind)	Flying debris, noise, cuts, vibrations	Safety glasses/goggles, hearing protection, sturdy footwear, gloves	Inspect site for obstacles before mowing.
Mowing (ride-on)	Flying debris, noise, rollovers, cuts, vibrations	Safety glasses/goggles, hearing protection, sturdy footwear, gloves, high-visibility clothing (if near roadways), ROPS (if applicable)	Engage ROPS, wear seatbelt (if equipped), drive up/down slopes, inspect mowers before use.
Hedge Trimming	Cuts, debris, noise, vibrations	Safety glasses/goggles, hearing protection, gloves, sturdy footwear	Inspect site for potential hazards before beginning task.
Edging	Cuts, debris	Safety glasses/goggles, gloves, sturdy footwear	
Pruning/Trimming	Cuts, falling branches, thorns, debris	Safety glasses/goggles, gloves (cut-resistant), sturdy footwear, head protection (if working at height or with large branches)	Use appropriate pruning tools and techniques.
Weeding/Planting	Thorns, sharp objects, soil irritants	Gloves, sturdy footwear	Wash hands thoroughly after handling plants and soil.
Chainsaw Operation	Cuts, falling objects, noise, vibrations	Safety helmet (with face shield), chainsaw chaps, chainsaw-resistant gloves, hearing protection, safety glasses/goggles, sturdy footwear	Receive chainsaw training, ensure equipment guards are in place, comply with power line clearance rules.
Brushcutter Operation	Cuts, flying debris, noise, vibrations	Safety helmet (with face shield), hearing protection, safety glasses/goggles, gloves, sturdy footwear	
Leaf Blowing	Noise, flying debris, dust	Safety glasses/goggles, hearing protection, dust mask/respirator, gloves	Consider wind direction when blowing to minimize dust exposure.
Applying Fertilizers/Pesticides	Chemical splashes, inhalation of fumes	Chemical-resistant gloves, eye protection, coveralls/protective clothing, respirators/masks (as per SDS), sturdy footwear (chemical-resistant)	Read and understand Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), follow label directions, only trained workers should handle chemicals.
Mixing Chemicals	Chemical splashes, inhalation of fumes	Chemical-resistant gloves, eye protection (face shield recommended), coveralls/protective clothing, respirators/masks (as per SDS), sturdy footwear (chemical-resistant)	Work in well-ventilated areas, avoid skin contact with chemicals.
Working with Sharp Tools	Cuts, punctures	Cut-resistant gloves, sturdy footwear	Keep tools sharp and in good condition.
Working in Dusty Conditions	Inhalation of dust	Dust mask/respirator	
Working with Loud Equipment	Hearing damage	Hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs)	
Working in Extreme Weather	Heatstroke, sunburn, cold stress	Sunscreen, hat, appropriate clothing (long sleeves, pants for sun protection), warm clothing for cold weather, rain gear	Take regular breaks, stay hydrated in hot weather, monitor weather conditions.