



## Gardening Risk Assessment

### Activity Risk/Benefit Assessment

<b>Which activity is this assessment for?</b>	Adult facilitated tree or shrub planting sessions in school grounds or local green spaces.  Adult facilitated gardening sessions.  Adult facilitated conservation activities such as weed or shrub clearance.
<b>Consider the benefits to the children of allowing this activity to take place:</b>	Collaborative activity, learning to work together. Social interaction between children and between adults and children. Knowledge about nature, seasons, plant care and understanding of natural cycles such as water, nitrogen, hydrogen etc. Attachment to nature, including understanding food production and environmental issues. Feeling of emotional and physical wellbeing. Learning to experience and manage risks within real contexts.

<b>The Hazard</b>	<b>Who could be harmed?</b>	<b>How could they be harmed?</b>	<b>Level of risk (with no control measures in place)</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Who will carry out control measure and when (before or during activity)?</b>	<b>Level of risk (with control measures in place)</b>
Tool use	All	Injuries from tool use, including bruising through being hit accidentally.	Medium	Good group briefing and control to ensure calm use of tools.	KT before and during the activity	Low
Sharp objects	All	Cuts from blades or sharp edge of spades etc or from plants.	Medium	Use of gloves where required, to reduce contact with plant sap, stings or abrasions when weeding or lifting.	KT during the activity	Low
Scissor tools	All	Cuts, incisions, penetrations and minor amputations from using scissor tools such as loppers and secateurs.	Medium	Awareness and briefing of dangers of certain tools – not reaching in holes being dug; keeping fingers away from scissor tools; care when swinging tools such as hammers or spades.	KT before and during the activity	Low
Trip hazards	All	Slips, trips and falls leading to significant injury.	Medium	Tools kept neat and not lying around to be trodden on or tripped over.	KT during the activity	Low

Lifting heavy weights / awkward objects such as trees.	All	Hurting back or straining muscles.	Medium	Remind children the correct way of carrying branches.	KT before the activity	Low
Adverse weather	All	Cold and hot weather injuries, including sunburn and hypothermia.	High	Good clothing, suitable to the weather.	KT before the activity	Low
Ingestion of dirt, spores or faecal matter through poor hygiene.	All	Stomach upsets or infections.	Medium	Provision of hand washing facilities and no food eaten before hands are all cleaned.	KT during and after the activity	Low
Ingestion of inedible seeds or fruit.	All	Indigestion or upset.	Medium	Remind children not to eat anything they find at FS.	KT before the activity	Low

Overall, planting and growing plants, shrubs and trees is a satisfying activity that engages children and young people with nature. The risks, during a well managed session, are usually of low consequence, and the few higher consequence hazards can be managed through good hygiene afterwards should any concerns be raised during the session.

- Low Risk** (Something which may result in minor damage or slight harm i.e. scratch or bruise)
- Medium Risk** (Something which may result in a significant loss/damage or major injury i.e. broken bone or other injury which results in person being taken to hospital for treatment)
- High risk** (something which may result in extensive damage, multiple or major injuries or death.)