

Occupations and Workplaces

Tree Planter

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What does a tree planter do?

Tree planters and other forestry workers perform physically demanding work. Some of their main duties are to:

- Clear brush.
- Climb over stumps, slash, and other obstacles.
- Carry and plant trees using manual tools.
- Feed machines manually.
- Prepare a site for planting.
- Use proper techniques for handling seedlings
- Use, clean, and maintain various equipment.
- Work with chemicals for plant growth, or for weed and pest control.
- Supervise other workers.

What are some health and safety issues for tree planters?

Tree planters face a variety of physical, biological, chemical, ergonomic and safety hazards. These include:

- [Insect bites or stings](#).
- [West Nile virus](#) (mosquitoes).

- [Lyme disease](#) or rocky mountain spotted fever.
 - [Rabies](#).
 - Allergic reaction to plants.
 - Exposure to bird or rodent droppings:
 - [Histoplasmosis](#)
 - [Psittacosis](#)
 - [Hantavirus](#)
 - Exposure to chemicals, including [pesticides](#).
 - Risk of pain or injury from working in [awkward positions](#), performing [repetitive tasks](#) or [lifting](#).
 - Risk of [tendonitis](#) from repetitive work.
 - Risk of injury from hitting a hidden rock with a shovel.
 - Exposure to [extreme temperatures](#) or other extreme weather conditions (including [lightning](#)).
 - UV radiation ([risk of skin cancer from sunlight](#)).
 - Driving - vehicle safety hazards.
 - [Slips, trips and falls](#).
 - Work near live electrical lines and equipment.
 - [Flammable products](#) (e.g., fuel for the power equipment).
 - Working with [chainsaws](#) and other tools/equipment.
 - [Stress](#).
 - [Working alone](#).
 - [Extended work days](#).
 - Working in [extreme hot and cold environments](#).
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What are some preventive measures for tree planters?

- Learn safe [lifting](#) procedures.
- Select appropriate tools for the task.
- Keep tools and equipment in good working order.
- Use appropriate [personal protective equipment](#) (PPE) for the task.

- Wear appropriate [footwear](#).
 - Wear clothing appropriate to the [hot](#) and [cold](#) weather.
 - Avoid awkward postures and repetitive manual tasks, or take frequent breaks.
 - In the [warmer months](#), cover up for protection from sun, heat and insects.
 - Stay hydrated.
 - In vehicles, always wear a seatbelt.
 - Use insect repellents containing DEET or Icaridin to repel ticks and other insects such as mosquitos, horseflies, black flies, or gnats.
 - Carry a first aid kit, as well as an [epi-pen](#) if you are allergic to bees, wasps, and hornet stings or have other allergies.
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What are some good general safe work practices?

- Use safety procedures for:
 - Safe [lifting](#)
 - Selection, use, maintenance and storage of [PPE](#)
 - Working with [pesticides](#) and other substances
 - Using [chainsaws](#), [shovels](#) and other tools or equipment
 - Working alone
 - Driving – [vehicle inspection](#) and [distracted driving](#)
 - [Emergency preparedness](#)
 - Follow company safety rules.
 - Learn about chemical safety, [WHMIS](#) and [SDSs](#).
 - Know how to [report a hazard](#).
 - Follow [good housekeeping](#) procedures.
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