

RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE FOR FOOD GROWING SITES

Below you can find an example of a task based risk assessment with some of the most common risks found on a food growing site.

Please ensure that you conduct your own survey to identify hazards on your specific growing site and analyse the risk ratings accordingly. You will also need to use the appropriate template needed for your institution, and get your risk assessment approved by your health and safety lead.

RISK ASSESSMENT (EXAMPLE)

Title: Food growing

Name of assessor:

Date:

Description of activity:

Identify the Hazards

HAZARDS List what could cause harm from this activity e.g. working at height, trip hazard, fire, etc	PERSONS AT RISK List who might be harmed and how	RISK RATING Decide level of risk without your controls in place	CONTROL MEASURES For each hazard, list the measures you will be taking to minimise the risk identified e.g. appointing competent persons, training received, planning, use of personal protective equipment, provision of first aid, etc	RESIDUAL RISK RATING Decide level of risk once all your controls are in place	ANY ACTIONS TO FURTHER REDUCE RISK
Gardening Tools: Spades, forks, trowels, secateurs, shears etc. Injury, trips, falls. Minor cuts and bruises			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools correctly maintained. Supervision when working with tools. Use the right tool for the job. Tools to be stored safely when not in use. Ensure adequate working space for people when they are working around growing site. First Aid Kit always available on site. 		



RISK ASSESSMENT (EXAMPLE)

Lifting: Injury, strains and sprains			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff/student leader demonstrates correct lifting techniques.• Do not overfill wheelbarrows.• Do not lift heavy objects without help.• Use a trolley to transport materials.• All equipment appropriately maintained and checked prior to use.		
Soil: Creating compost Potting Digging Tetanus E-Coli Bioaerosols Skin Irritation Soil blowing into eyes			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions on how to use tools correctly to avoid soil being flicked into each other's eyes.• Avoid using loose compost and digging/raking soil in dry and windy conditions.• Wear gloves when appropriate.• Wash hands thoroughly after handling soil.		Garden beds where staff knows cats tend to use, also make students aware of the possibility of cat manure so they can be mindful of this.
Compost/Potting Compost: Infection from airborne particles.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compost should be stored in a cool place i.e. not in a greenhouse and the container (bag or dustbin) should be sealed when not in use.• Volunteers should wear gloves when appropriate - ensure any cuts or abrasions are covered.• Handle potting composts gently to avoid splashes and bioaerosols. Damping dry material to avoid dust and ensuring wet compost that might cause splash is not used.• Use potting composts in a well-ventilated place.		

RISK ASSESSMENT (EXAMPLE)

<p>Plants:</p> <p>Ingestion, allergic Reactions</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information on harmful or potentially poisonous plants to be kept available on site. • Staff to be made aware of any volunteers/staff known to have specific plant/food allergies or hay fever. • Wear gloves if plants are a skin-irritant. • Staff and volunteers must not eat any plants from the growing site unless they are competent to identify the potential harmful plants in their garden. • No planting of potentially poisonous plants in edible beds. 		
<p>Water butts & hoses:</p> <p>Slips, trips, falls</p> <p>Water borne bacteria Legionella and other infections</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water butts to be secured on a stable surface and to have locked lids. • Volunteers must be shown how to correctly water plants to avoid soaking pathways. No running water. • Empty water out of hoses after use. Full hoses left in sun or warm conditions may breed micro-organisms such as legionella. Hoses should not be stored in warm place e.g. greenhouse. • Hose pipes should be coiled/rolled up after use and not left lying out. 		

RISK ASSESSMENT (EXAMPLE)

SEVERITY		LIKELIHOOD				
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very Likely
Negligible	1	1	2	3	4	5
Minor	2	2	4	6	8	10
Moderate	3	3	6	9	12	15
Major	4	4	8	12	16	20
Catastrophic	5	5	10	15	20	25

RISK	ACTION
1-6 low risk	No injury, minimal impact
8-10 moderate	Implement control measures or further control measures, where possible, to reduce risk rating to as low as is reasonably practicable. Minor injury or illness, requiring minor intervention.
12-15 high risk	Consider stopping activity, or implement control measures or further control measures to reduce risk rating to as low as is reasonably practicable immediately. Moderate injury requiring professional intervention
16-25 very high risk	Major injury leading to long-term incapacity/disability. Activity should not be commenced until the risks can be lowered through further control measures and if they can't then activity must not take place at all.