

Topping tobacco

Adult responsibilities

ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- Re-entry standards are followed
- Tobacco plants are dry
- Child has safe transport to the field
- Work area has no hazards
- Child has no insect allergies
- Child wears long sleeved shirt, long pants, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Child and adult can communicate by cell phone, walkie-talkie or other method
- Break areas are provided away from the work site with bathrooms and water for drinking and washing hands
- Child has at least one ten-minute break every hour
- Child drinks a quart of fluids every hour
- Child changes outer clothing and washes hands after job



Can your child do this job?

ABILITY

Is the child tall enough to stand on the ground and reach the blossoms without overstretching?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children who have to strain to reach the blossoms are more likely to be injured.

If using cutting tools, are they the right size for the child?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! The wrong size tools can cause injury.

Can the child repeat a manual procedure for 50 minutes without becoming exhausted?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children working beyond their endurance are more likely to be injured.

Is your child responsible? Do you trust your child to do what's expected without anyone checking?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Irresponsible behavior can lead to injury.

Does the child do things that seem dangerous for the thrill of it?

- Yes. **STOP** STOP! Children who take risks or behave dangerously are more likely to be injured.
- No.

TRAINING

If using cutting tools, has the child been trained to use them safely?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Training is needed to prevent injury.

Has an adult demonstrated topping tobacco on site?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job at the work site.

Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

SUPERVISION

Can an adult supervise as recommended?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

Remember



Bite-proof protective boots with non-skid soles

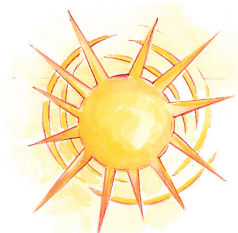


Eye protection



Moisture-resistant gloves

Main Hazards



Sun can cause heat exhaustion



Repetitive motion can strain muscles and injure back and joints



Contact with wet tobacco leaves can lead to green tobacco sickness

Supervision

What's the right amount? Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

Age 12-13: WATCH

nearly constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

Age 14-15: CHECK

every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15-30 minutes, then make sure the child is using cutting tools correctly and not showing signs of fatigue.

Age 16+: LEAVE

When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15-30 minutes, then make sure the child is using cutting tools correctly and not showing signs of fatigue.