

Harvest warning

Don't let the increase in activity at harvest translate to an increase in accidents and injuries.

Get it before it gets you: Now is the time to prepare and plan the work carefully

Horticulture

- Be extra vigilant
- Ensure machinery is maintained and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions and specifications

The safest and most effective practice for fruit picking or tree pruning is to **perform the task from the ground:**

Fruit Picking:

- Use loppers or a saw on an extendable pole
- Use a boom type elevated work platform (EWP) or travel tower similar to a cherry picker in combination with a suitable fall protection harness. Never operate this equipment on:
 - Steep, unstable or sloping ground
 - Near power lines or in windy conditions
- Fixed or portable ladders or work procedures should only be used if safer solutions are not practicable.
 - An orchard portable ladder may be used if it is fit for the purpose and appropriate for the duration of the task and complies with Australian Standards AS/NZS 1892.1 - 1996.
 - Maintain and inspect ladders before each use and after mishaps, drops and impacts

Where administrative controls, such as work procedures, are used it is good practice to:

- Record and display a description of the administrative control before the task is undertaken
- Maintain the record for the task duration period

Pruning:

- The ladder must be anchored at the base and secured at the top of the tree before starting the pruning task
- The worker must use a personal fall protection device such as a safety harness or pole strap attached to the tree.

All workers must be instructed in:

- The safe use of the harness
- ladder set up,
- picking fruit within safe reach from ladder
- to use only the rungs below the top two
- Use three point contact on ladders when ascending or descending
- Wear & use non slip secure footwear
- Wear and use appropriate personal protective equipment

All workers must be supervised to ensure safe work procedures are followed.

More information:

www.worksafevic.gov.au - select Publications and search for Horticulture Guide