Forks, Spades, and Hoes – Landscaping Stats and Facts

FACTS

The use of manual tools such as forks, spades, and hoes in landscaping poses hazards.

1. **Musculoskeletal Injuries:** Repetitive use of forks, spades, and hoes can lead to strains and sprains, particularly in the back, shoulders, and wrists.
2. **Lacerations and Punctures:** Sharp edges and points on these tools can cause cuts, lacerations, and puncture wounds.
3. **Blisters and Calluses:** Prolonged use of these tools without proper hand protection can lead to blisters and calluses on the hands and fingers.
4. **Eye Injuries:** Debris, dirt, and small stones can be thrown into the air when using these tools.
5. **Foot Injuries:** Accidental contact with the sharp edges of spades and hoes can cause significant foot injuries.

STATS

USA

- In 2021, the landscaping services industry saw numerous injuries related to manual tool use, with lacerations, fractures, and strains being the most common types of injuries.
- Approximately 1.8 million work injuries require emergency room treatment annually. Of these, landscaping and groundskeeping activities are significant contributors due to the manual nature of the work.
- The landscaping services industry employs over 1.2 million people, with a substantial number of injuries related to the use of manual tools like forks, spades, and hoes.

- The National Safety Council (NSC) reports that the average cost of work-related injuries involving lacerations, punctures, and ruptures is around $33,348 per incident.

Canada

- The landscaping services industry employs a large workforce, with an estimated 63,481 businesses involved in landscaping services.
- Injuries related to manual tools often include musculoskeletal disorders, lacerations, punctures, and strains, mirroring the trends seen in the USA.
- Injuries from hand tools like forks, spades, and hoes are likely less severe compared to power equipment.
- A 2018 study found that 73% of yard work injuries were caused by equipment other than lawn mowers, including hand tools.
- A 2019 analysis of 10 years of data found that 27% of yard work injuries were attributed to lawn mowers, while the remaining 73% were caused by other equipment.