

Pruning machines vineyard

Task Description:

The seasonal worker goes from vineyard to vineyard 4 months per year to do manual pruning. In the earlier days this was done with a knife (cutting risks!), fortunately nowadays special tools can be used. Very severe back flexion occurs and awkward wrist postures.



Comments from the employee:

- 'The work height is not always in accordance with the working posture'
- 'It is complicated to obtain a correct working posture'
- 'It is no comfortable standing posture'

MSD risks:

- Uncomfortable postures of back, neck and shoulder

Exposed areas:

- Neck / shoulder
- upper/lower back

Solutions:

- Automated pruning



Comments from the employer

Automated pruning: OK for e.g. deleafing in spring time, but the pruning in wintertime has to be done manually since it is a very precise task, not possible to do with machinery.

Photos: Veerle Hermans, Belgium, 2009