Mold and Mildew Awareness – Landscaping Stats and Facts



FACTS

Key hazards related to mold and mildew awareness in the landscaping industry:

1. **Respiratory Issues:** Prolonged exposure to mold and mildew spores can lead to respiratory problems such as asthma, allergic reactions, or even more severe conditions like hypersensitivity pneumonitis.
2. **Skin Irritation:** Direct contact with mold or mildew can cause skin irritation or allergic reactions, including rashes, itching, and dermatitis.
3. **Infection Risk:** Certain types of mold, such as Aspergillus, can cause infections, particularly in individuals with weakened immune systems.
4. **Inhalation of Toxins (Mycotoxins):** Some molds produce mycotoxins, which can be toxic when inhaled.
5. **Eye Irritation:** Mold spores can cause eye irritation, including redness, itching, and watery eyes. This is a risk when working in environments where mold spores are airborne.
6. **Aggravation of Pre-existing Conditions:** Workers with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma, may experience exacerbated symptoms when exposed to mold and mildew.
7. **Potential for Long-term Health Effects:** Chronic exposure to mold and mildew in the workplace can lead to long-term health issues, including chronic respiratory illnesses and ongoing allergic reactions.

STATS

- In 2019, landscaping and groundskeeping workers reported 12,380 nonfatal injuries requiring days away from work in the USA, with an incidence rate of 185 per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers.
- Approximately 70% of homes in the USA have some form of mold, and at least 45 million buildings are reported to have unhealthy mold levels.
- Respiratory Illnesses: About 4.6 million asthma cases in the USA are estimated to be attributable to dampness and mold exposure. Additionally, 93% of chronic sinus infections have been attributed to mold.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) emphasizes that mold exposure can lead to respiratory symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and asthma. Workers in environments where mold is prevalent, such as landscaping, are at risk of these health issues.