# Cold, Flu and Transmissible Illness – Landscaping Stats and Facts



## FACTS

**In the landscaping industry, there are key hazards and risks.**

1. **Spread of Illness:** Close working conditions and shared tools in landscaping increase the risk of spreading colds, flu, and other transmissible illnesses.
2. **Decreased Performance:** Illnesses can reduce physical and mental capacity.
3. **Extended Recovery:** Harsh outdoor conditions can worsen symptoms and prolong recovery time.
4. **Weakened Immunity:** Continuous exposure to tough weather can weaken workers' immune systems.
5. **Increased Injury Risk:** Fatigue and impaired focus from illness can raise the likelihood of accidents.
6. **Team Disruption:** Sick workers' absence can overburden healthy workers and delay projects.
7. **Economic Loss:** Illness outbreaks can lead to significant financial losses from missed workdays, and reduced productivity

## STATS

- (CDC) reports that flu alone costs the U.S. economy an estimated $10.4 billion annually in direct costs for hospitalizations and outpatient visits for adults.
- In the USA, approximately 8% of the population gets sick with the flu each season, with estimates ranging from 3% to 11% depending on the severity of the season.
- The CDC estimates that 12,000 to 56,000 deaths occur annually in the USA due to the flu.
- Adults typically experience 2 to 3 colds per year, while children may catch colds even more frequently due to their close interactions in schools and daycare settings.
- From August 27, 2023, to July 20, 2024, there were 4,498 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported across participating provinces and territories in Canada. Adults aged 65 and older accounted for 45% of these

hospitalizations, with the highest rates among this demographic.
- A total of 1,222 laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were reported in Canada from August 2023 to July 2024.