



Pay Rates and Work Conditions

Most pickers are paid on a 'piece rate' – generally based on volume.

What can be earned depends on the worker's ability, the size of the crop and the prevailing weather conditions. First time pickers may find it difficult to make wages initially, however picking is like any physical skill - you get faster the more you do.

For fruit packing and shed hand work, payment is usually by wages.

The majority of growers pay fortnightly and you will need a tax file number, proof of identity and/or an appropriate working Visa, along with banking details.

Accommodation & Transport

Some orchards have on-site accommodation available, however it gets booked out quickly.

It's a great advantage to have your own camping and cooking equipment. Caravans and campers are most welcome. There are a number of hotels and motels located in most towns; however these may be fully booked during the height of the harvest season.

The local caravan parks have excellent facilities including camping grounds; however you may need to book well in advance. It may be essential that workers bring their own camping equipment.

Harvest workers must have their own transport as there is no local public transport other than taxis and little on farm accommodation.

Useful Local Phone Numbers

Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance 000
Poisons Information 131 126
Alcohol & Drug Info Service 1800 177 833
Interpreter Service 131 450
Centrelink 131 021
Wages and Conditions 1300 369 945
Lifeline 131 114

Suggestions for local accommodation

Young Accommodation

Young Tourist Caravan Park
02 6382 2190
Affordable Accommodation
02 6382 2444

Cowra Accommodation

Cowra Van Park
02 6340 2110
Cowra Holiday Park
02 6342 2666
Pine Trees Caravan Park
02 6342 1850

Orange Accommodation

Colour City Caravan Park
02 6362 7254
Canobolas Caravan Park
02 6362 7279

Cabonne Shire Accommodation

Canowindra Caravan Park
02 6344 1850
Cudal Caravan Park
02 6392 7100
Molong Caravan Park
02 6366 8328

For further information or enquiries about any aspect of harvest work, contact

Central West Community College's Harvest Labour Services office

50-66 Boorowa Street, Young, NSW 2594
Phone 02 6382 9258
Fax 02 6382 5729
Mobile: 0408 898 010

National Harvest Labour Information Service
Freecall 1800 062 332 (weekdays 8am - 8pm)

or visit the Harvest Trail website at
www.jobsearch.gov.au/harvesttrail
Harvest Hotline: 1300 792 622



harvest labour services

'your link to the harvest trail'

Your local Harvest Labour Service in the Young, Cowra, Orange and Cabonne regions of New South Wales

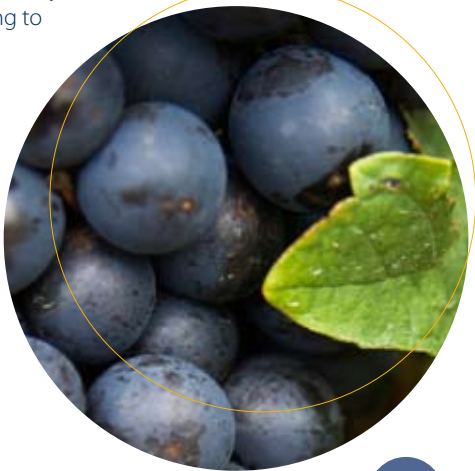
About Central West Community College's Harvest Labour Services

Central West Community College's Harvest Labour Services provide a central point of contact for job seekers looking for harvest work and local growers needing to build a seasonal harvest workforce.

We can provide up to date information on current local harvest opportunities and working conditions. As harvest conditions can change daily, we recommend job seekers contact our Service to confirm job availability before travelling to harvest areas.

Harvest Crop Locations

We can link you with harvest work throughout the Young, Cowra, Orange and Cabonne Shires located in the Central West of NSW - approximately 3½ to 5hrs from Sydney by car.



Main Harvest Crops

Cherries, Grapes, Citrus, Vegetables, Peaches, Nectarines, Plums, Prunes, Apples, Apricots.

Harvest Season

The main picking season in our regions usually start to begin in late October and continue through until late January. The availability of harvest work is dependent on weather conditions, the size and quality of crops and the number of seasonal workers in the area. There is also a small demand for harvest workers outside these times.

What do you need for Harvest Work?

- An Australian Tax File Number
- A current Working Visa (visitors to Australia)
- Sensible covered shoes for climbing ladders
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, long sleeves and a hat
- All weather clothing as conditions can change
- Your own water and lunch daily
- Your own transport (taxis are the only form of local public transport in our regions)

Helpful Tips

Tax

Tax rates will be determined by your circumstance and the current working arrangements. These are collected by the farmer (your employer) and submitted to the Australian Taxation Office. If you fail to provide an Australian Tax File Number (TFN) you will be taxed at the highest rate. More information and a TFN can be obtained from the Australian Taxation Office.

Phone 132 861 or visit www.ato.gov.au

Working Visas

If you're visiting Australia and you wish to work, you'll need a current Working Visa. These can be obtained from the Department of Immigration & Citizenship.

Phone 1800 040 070 or visit www.dimia.gov.au

Physical/Personal Fitness

Most harvest jobs require a reasonable level of physical fitness as jobs can involve climbing ladders, standing, kneeling or sitting while moving through the crop. Harvest work may be repetitious and tiring and can involve heavy and/or regular lifting.

Arriving on Time for the Season

Arriving in the area at the right time is extremely important. Being early means limited work and unless you have money and wish to be a tourist for a short while, don't arrive in a potential work town prior to the availability of work. Late arrival of course can mean that only limited vacancies are available.

Mobile Phone Coverage

Please be aware that mobile phone coverage is limited in some country areas and access to pay phones is generally not available outside of built up urban areas.

Accommodation

Accommodation is in high demand during harvest season. Make sure you contact our Harvest Labour Services before travelling to the area to ensure arrangements can be made to accommodate you. Always make it known if you have your own accommodation eg. tent, caravan or campervan.

Animals/Pets

No animals or pets are allowed in caravan parks or orchards. Please check ahead if you are travelling with a pet or animal.

Weather

During the winter months you will need warm clothing as the nights are extremely cold in our regions. Adverse weather can impact harvesting as some crops cannot be picked wet. If this happens, your income may be affected temporarily. We recommend you bring enough money to cover expenses for approximately two weeks in case picking is delayed.

Please note: As harvest conditions can change daily please contact our Harvest Labour Services to confirm job availability before leaving your current location.

Clothing, Hats & Sunscreen

For your safety, you will be required to wear hard wearing clothing and footwear that will keep you well covered and protected at all times while you are working. Maximum protection against the sun is essential. A suitable broad-brimmed hat is essential. You should use a sun screen cream with protection factor of at least 30+. Sunglasses are also highly recommended.

Keep Hydrated & Eat Well

Harvesting crops is demanding work. The days can be long and hot so a good supply of water is vital to prevent dehydration. A large water bottle and a suitable lunch every day is suggested. Eat well, pace yourself and get adequate amounts of rest each night for the days ahead.

Insect Repellent

Insects are very common in our region. Not only can they be annoying while you are picking, they can be venomous and carry diseases. Always use an effective insect repellent and apply it regularly to protect yourself.

Listen & Follow Instructions

Listen carefully. ALWAYS follow the instructions given on the harvest and adhere to all health and safety procedures. Be careful when handling the produce and only harvest what has been specified. If in doubt, please ask!

