What is green tobacco sickness?

Green tobacco sickness is an illness you get when you work in tobacco fields.

What are the symptoms?

◊ Headache
◊ Dizziness
◊ Nausea
◊ Vomiting
◊ Weakness
◊ Insomnia
◊ Loss of appetite

What causes green tobacco sickness?

You get green tobacco sickness when nicotine from tobacco plants gets on your body.

The nicotine from the tobacco plants enters your body through your skin.

You get green tobacco sickness more easily when the tobacco plants are wet.

How can you prevent green tobacco sickness?

◊ Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and a raincoat.
◊ Change clothes if they get wet.
How do you treat green tobacco sickness?

◊ Drink liquids such as water or Gatorade (not soda or beer).
◊ Bathe and change your clothes.
◊ Take nausea medication such as Dramamine or Benadryl.

For more information call:

Green Tobacco Sickness

The Mean Green

Wake Forest University
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

Thomas A. Arcury, Ph.D.
Sara A. Quandt, Ph.D.
Deborah Norton, M.D., M.P.H.

Drawings by: Tim Rickard

Copyright 2009
Wake Forest University School of Medicine