

Sugar Cane Field Worker's Clothing

Field workers wore clothes to protect them from the sharp edges of the sugar cane leaves, fuzz of the sugar cane plant, dirt, sun, and wind. Their clothes also had to keep centipedes and other bugs from crawling inside and biting them.

Papale(Hat)



Long Sleeve Shirt



Apron



Te oi (Arm Covering)



Kyahan (Knee to Ankle Wrapping)



Hakama (Long Skirt)



Tabi (Footwear)



Long Pants



How a Field Worker Dressed for Work

Field workers put their clothes on in a step by step way to make sure they would be protected from centipedes and other bugs from crawling into their clothing.

1. Long tight cotton pants
2. **Tabis:** footwear to cover the feet
3. **Kyahan:** knee to ankle wrapping that firmly wrapped and tied to keep the centipedes from crawling between pants bottom and *tabi*.
4. Long sleeve shirt
5. **Hakama:** a skirt that was worn an inch or two below the knee.
6. **Obi:** a cummerbund firmly wrapped around the waist to prevent insects from creeping in between the shirt and waist
7. Apron
8. **Te oi:** arm cover which extended from the finger joints to the elbow was to keep bugs out of the sleeves and to prevent the back of the hands from getting cut by the cane leaves
9. **Papale:** wrap a white muslin cloth on head the place the *papale* (hat) on head and put a pun through the hat to hold everything down. Hat styles varied from plantation to plantation. Some had wide brims and others looked like bonnets.
10. Handkerchief: Most women wanted to keep their skin complexion fair and their faces from getting scratched by the cane leaves, so they would also cover their faces with a handkerchief as they worked.



A second grader poses for picture after dressing up in a field worker's clothes.