

Biosecurity Guidelines for Farm Visitors

June 2024

Mission

To Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Plant Pests from Farm to Farm

Before the visit:

- Pre-plan your visit
- Contact the farm in advance, know their concerns
- Know the nature of the facility
- Be aware of the important pests and diseases of the crops grown on the farm
- Visit farms with unique pest problems last
- If you observe pest or disease pressure in a farm, avoid same-day visits to similar farms
- Wear dark blue, green or brown coloured clothing which are less attractive to insects

During the visit:

1. Always carry a **“Biosecurity Supply Kit”** containing
 - Disposal overalls/Sani-suits
 - Booties
 - Gloves
 - Disinfectants (see below)
 - Paper towels
 - Disposal bags
 - Spray-bottles
 - Spare clothing and foot ware
2. Follow appropriate biosecurity procedures during farm visit
3. Avoid carrying mud or plant debris on your vehicle when entering a farm
4. Park at designated parking areas, if not on paved or gravel surfaces
5. Avoid contact with plant materials that may harbour plant pathogens and pests
6. Follow good sanitation practices
 - Sanitize hands
 - Use foot-bath
 - Wear protective clothing (if necessary)

7. Use effective and appropriate disinfectants (concentration and exposure time varies). Please refer to the Ministry's Factsheet on "Disinfection and Sanitation Practices".
 - a. For hands – antimicrobial hand soap (e.g. OneStep, Wet Ones)
 - b. For shoes, etc. – Virkon (1-2%), KleenGrow (15 ml/litre), household bleach (10%)
 - c. For tires – Virkon (1-2%), KleenGrow (15 ml/litre), household bleach (10%)

End of the visit:

- Properly secure plant samples in sealed bags
- If necessary, wash/disinfect tires, mud flaps, etc. of your vehicle when leaving
- Place all waste materials (disposal suits, plant waste, etc.) in disposal bags and dispose of them properly
- Make sure you have followed proper sanitation practices
- Check to see you and your vehicle are free of soil and plant debris
- Keep a record of your visit
- Most importantly, if you've encountered a farm with pest or disease problems, phone ahead to your next client and discuss the situation

Submit plant samples suspected of insect pests and diseases for diagnosis to the [Ministry of Agriculture and Food - Plant Health Laboratory](#) or to a qualified laboratory for confirmation.

Useful References

[Invasive Species Council of British Columbia](#)

[Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#)

[Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada \(AAFC\)](#)

[Pest Management Regulatory Agency](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture](#)

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