

## Field Tours: Clubroot Prevention Protocol

This protocol outlines the stewardship measures recommended by the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) for crop tours (all crops), and individuals who are requested or required to enter fields. These measures aim to minimize the transmission of crop pests such as weed seeds, insects, and pathogens that cause plant diseases, especially clubroot, into or out of a specific field.

- 1) **Preliminary Visit** - Upon planning a crop tour or field visit, meet with the stakeholder (ex. farmer, landowner) to make them aware of the steps that are being undertaken to limit the spread of clubroot infection.
- 2) **Vehicle Entry** – Vehicles should always park safely on a municipal road or in a field approach. Previous clubroot field surveys have found that the most likely parts of a field to be infected are the field entrance and the area to the right side of that entry point. If permission has been granted by the landowner for vehicle entry, be sure that the vehicle is clean, with no visible signs of loose dirt and tires have been disinfected with 2% bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution or undiluted Spray Nine®.
- 3) **Disposable Booties** - Plastic or Tyvek disposable booties should be worn over existing footwear whenever possible. Upon exiting the field, these booties should be collected from attendees and disposed of. These booties should never be reused.
- 4) **Boot Bath** – If clean footwear is being used without disposable booties, they will need to be sanitized prior to attendees touring the field site. For field entry during the tour:
  - i) Boots should be scraped clean in the field, removing as much soil and debris as possible before leaving the field.
  - ii) Attendees should walk through boot bath (this can be done with a Rubbermaid-type container) that is a 2% bleach solution or undiluted Spray Nine® to disinfect the bottom of their footwear.
  - iii) If the tour includes multiple fields, have attendees walk through the boot bath again and/or change their boot covers to prevent spread of potential clubroot spores from field to field.
- 5) **Tools** - Any tools (trowels, spades, soil augers, etc.) used during a tour should be completely free of visible soil prior to being used. Tools should be submerged in a 2% bleach solution for 20 minutes before being used in other fields.
- 6) **Weather** – When possible, refrain from carrying out field tours or site visits when the field is wet or avoid areas of the field that hold high amounts of moisture.
- 7) **Sanitization Supplies** – Always carry the appropriate sanitation supplies for field tours: booties, garbage bags, hand sanitizers, paper towel or wipes, water and bleach disinfectants.

The CCC strives to align field entry measures with provincial clubroot management plans. Effectively sanitizing equipment and minimizing soil movement will help alleviate clubroot inoculum build-up in the soil and prevent spread. The CCC recommends “**keep it low and local**” to manage clubroot. Please visit [clubroot.ca](http://clubroot.ca) for more information.