

The Canola Council of Canada Field Entry Policy

Crop pests (ex. weed seeds, insects and pathogens causing plant diseases) can easily be transferred from field to field and cause significant consequences if no precautions are taken. Clubroot, for example, is a very serious soil-borne disease that can affect many agricultural stakeholders (ex. farmers, landowners and agronomists), oil and gas industry members, and anyone in rural landscapes if they contact contaminated soil or plant material (and potentially contaminated , runoff water). Therefore measures should be taken to prevent the unintended transfer of any crop pests into or out of any fields by an individual, their tools, implements or vehicles.

This document outlines the proper stewardship measures that should be followed by individuals who are requested or required to enter fields, in order to minimize the transmission of crop pests into or out of a specific field.

Policy goals:

- Reduce the spread of crop pests (ex. weed seeds, insects and pathogens causing plant diseases especially *Plasmodiophora brassicae*, the soil-borne pathogen which causes clubroot)
- Assist in educating stakeholders about the threats canola pests represent to agriculture in Canada.

Recommended stewardship measures:

- Field visits or inspections are to be done on foot, unless otherwise agreed upon with the land owner/renter.
- Upon meeting a stakeholder (ex. farmer, landowner, other) at a field, make them aware of the steps that are being undertaken to limit the spread of clubroot infection.
- 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.
- Plastic or Tyvek disposable booties should be worn over existing footwear whenever possible. Upon exiting the field, these booties should be put into a sealed bag, carried to the user's vehicle and then placed inside the vehicle until they can be incinerated, or disposed in domestic garbage. These booties should never be reused.
- If clean rubber boots are worn without booties, they will need to be sanitized after entering the field. This is a three-step process:
 1. Boots are scraped clean in the field removing as much soil and debris as possible.
 2. Boots must then be washed (this can be done in a 20L pail or a Rubbermaid-type container with lid). Be sure to dispose of the water in the field whenever possible.
 3. Finally, boots must be disinfected before the next field visit. Disinfection can be done with a 2% bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution. Soak boots for at least 20 minutes in order for the sanitation process to be effective before entering the next field. Disinfectant solution should be prepared fresh at least daily.

- When doing a field inspection with a grower, if travel in a vehicle is absolutely required, it is preferable to travel in the grower's vehicle, if at all possible.
- Should the individual have to drive their vehicle through the field, it should be washed at the nearest carwash before visiting another field. Washing must include tires, wheels and undercarriage, especially wheel wells and anywhere else on the vehicle that soil may be stuck to. Vehicles should be equipped with appropriate mud/splash guards to reduce the amount of soil/mud thrown onto other parts of the vehicle body and undercarriage (thereby reducing the amount of time/expense required to properly clean soil/mud from the vehicle).
- Any tools (trowels, spades, soil augers, etc.) used for digging or otherwise disturbing soil must be completely free of visible soil prior to being used in another field. If soil cannot be physically removed by hand or a brush, it should be scraped off. Tools should be submerged in a diluted bleach solution for 20 minutes before being used in other fields.
- A bleach solution diluted to 2% sodium hypochlorite should be carried in a covered plastic pail or container in the bed of Canola Council of Canada field vehicles. Regular maintenance and changing of this solution is required. (Bleach is typically sold at 5% sodium hypochlorite; so one part 5% bleach and one part water would provide a 2.5% sodium hypochlorite solution.)
- Spray bottles containing a 2% sodium hypochlorite solution may also be carried in field vehicles and used for sanitation.
- Chunks of soil or mud will not be disinfected by a bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution and therefore should be removed prior to treating boots, tools, etc. with the solution.
- Disposable gloves should be worn, or hands (and any other body parts) that may be covered with soil/or mud should be washed/cleaned and a hand sanitizer used before leaving the field, whenever possible. A thorough hand washing should also occur before entering another field.
- When possible, refrain from performing field walks or visits when the field is muddy.

In summary CCC Agronomy Specialists will:

1. Park vehicles safely on road or at the side of an approach, and avoid entering fields with vehicles.
2. Only enter fields wearing sanitized footwear and/or disposable booties
3. Disinfect all tools and equipment that comes in contact with soil while in a field
4. Carry appropriate sanitation supplies in their vehicle at all times: booties, garbage bags, hand sanitizer, paper towel or wipes, water and bleach disinfectant.

Note that CCC strives to align field entry measures with provincial clubroot management plans.