

# FARM VISIT BIOSECURITY

for Visiting Orchards, Vineyards,  
Crop Fields and Greenhouses

This handout outlines biosecurity practices to help minimize the risk of transmitting **plant diseases, insects, nematodes, or weeds** during farm visits.

Additional precautions may be required when a **contagious plant disease or regulated pest** is present. These may include protective footwear and clothing, as well as enhanced disinfection procedures.

**Follow a grower's biosecurity requirements if more stringent than ours.**

Discuss any conflicts between farm visit biosecurity requirements and staff safety with your supervisor in advance (e.g., disposable clothing in high heat or disposable footwear on slippery surfaces).

## Before the Visit

- **Call ahead to the grower**, if possible.
  - Follow any additional protocol measures of the operation if applicable (e.g., for a regulated pest or contagious plant disease).
- Schedule field visits to avoid walking in wet fields or handling wet plants, if possible.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment that will be used on plants.
- Wear clean clothing and clean footwear to the site.

## Upon Arrival

- Drive slowly ( $\leq 30$  km/hr) and keep vehicle windows closed to reduce contamination of vehicle.
- Park in designated visitor parking areas or away from barns and other sources of contamination.
- Clean hands using disinfectant hand gel and/or wear disposable gloves.
- Follow visitor tracking practices (e.g., sign the visitor logbook, or notify the grower by text)
- When entering protected structure (e.g., greenhouses, hoop houses), wear disposable or freshly laundered clothing and disposable boots if contact with crops is expected
- In **high-risk situations** (known or suspected contagious disease or regulated pest):
  - Put on protective footwear and clothing before entering a field, orchard, vineyard or greenhouse.
  - If the risk level is unknown, err on the side of caution and use protective footwear and clothing.



### During the Visit

- If possible, leave vehicle in designated areas and walk the crops. Minimize driving through fields.
- Obey all signage and physical barriers. Do not enter buildings unless permitted by the farm operator.
- Avoid unnecessary contact with the crop. Some diseases (e.g., tobacco mosaic virus) spread easily by contact.
- Clean and disinfect equipment between use in biologically separate/unique areas, crops, or building on the same property.

### Before Leaving the Operation

- Visually inspect clothing, hair and equipment to ensure no insects or plant material are present.
- Remove soil and debris from footwear. Use a brush to clean tread.
- Wash and disinfect footwear.
- Wash and disinfect all equipment used during the visit.
- Wash hands or use disinfectant hand gel.
- Leave disposable materials with the grower, or seal them in a labelled plastic bag or washable container for later disposal.
  - Keep clean and dirty items separate.
- Inspect the vehicle (inside and out) for visible contamination (soil, plant material, insects, manure).
  - Remove visible contamination before leaving.
  - Wash contaminated vehicles before visiting another agricultural operation.



### Where a Contagious Disease or Regulated Pest is Present

- Secure all samples (plant, soil, insect or disease material) in sealed containers to prevent accidental spread.
- Visit sites with known or suspected contagious and regulated plant pests last if multiple farm visits are planned.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect boots and field equipment before leaving the site, especially for soil-borne pests. Remember to remove excess soil and organic matter prior to disinfection.
- Leave disposable materials and garbage with the grower if possible.
- Wash vehicle before entering another farm or facility.