

2026 Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers

Regional Variety Testing Program Protocols to Reduce Soil Movement

Purpose:

Ensure individuals who are requested or required to enter crop production or trial site fields are following proper stewardship protocols to minimize the spread of pests to/between fields.

Background:

Soil-borne pests are problematic due to persistence in soils and have limited crop protection products (e.g. soybean cyst nematode, clubroot). Without soil analysis with the quantification of presence/absence of a pest, to reduce risk of spread, precautions must be taken to minimize the transfer of soil and to disinfect the soil which might be transferred.

1. Field Entry

- Before visiting a variety trial site, contact MPSG's variety trial agronomist, Jennifer McCombe-Theroux, or the contact person listed for the contractor taking care of that site.
- Whenever possible, prior to field entry, make farmer/landowner aware of the steps that are being undertaken to limit the spread of soil and soil-borne pests
- Whenever possible, field visits or inspections should be done on foot
- Vehicles should be parked, on the municipal road or in the approach and not in fields
- When doing field inspections with a grower, if required to travel in a vehicle, travel in the grower's vehicle.
- Try to reduce field visits when the field is muddy

2. Personal Protective Clothing

- Disposable boots or rubber-soled footwear that can be cleaned (rubber soled shoes/boots or rubber boots) and disinfected between fields should be worn.
 - Non-disposable footwear should be scraped clean of visible soil, washed and disinfected before next field.
 - **Disinfectants** can include 1-2% bleach solution, Spray Nine, or Virkon

3. Small Tool, Vehicle and Equipment Sanitation

- Steps for sanitation of small tools, vehicles and field equipment are the same. Upon leaving the field you should:
 - Rough clean, which includes knocking or scraping off soil clumps, then
 - Fine cleaning, using compressed air to blow off remaining soil or washing with water to rinse off remaining soil. Preferred to be at field approach, but could be done at a nearby carwash (tires, wheels and undercarriage, especially wheel wells and anywhere else mud may have stuck), then
 - Spray down with disinfectant.

4. Documentation

- Prevention steps followed should be documented at the end of every field visit/inspection in case there are any subsequent questions or concerns. Records are to be maintained by the individual.

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