

Insect Survey

Field Entry Procedures

Entomology Program, Brooks Alberta

We understand that entering a field come with responsibilities. We respect that the integrity and biosecurity of each field is of very high importance. With this in mind, we do everything possible to ensure that the foot wear and the tools we use in our surveillance program are clean and pest free.

When doing our surveys we park on road-sides or on the field approaches. We avoid driving vehicles or equipment into any field whether we have permission to drive in or not. We also walk into fields wearing either disposable boot covers or rubber boots that can be sterilized.

Upon completing the field visit field we return to the vehicle and remove our foot wear. Disposable boot covers are turned inside out and the second one is placed inside the first then placed in a garbage bag for disposal. The garbage bag is kept closed to prevent the boot covers from escaping.

Rubber boots are put into a pail with a 1% bleach solution. The boots will remain in the pail until the next field. If the boots are muddy, as much of the mud is removed in the grass along the field edge as possible before putting the boots in the bleach solution pail. The bleach solution is changed daily.

Any tools that are used in the field (trap stand, shovel or soil coring unit) are cleaned of mud and soaked in a 1% bleach solution for sterilization.

We take this very seriously and all technicians and staff working for the entomology program are required to adhere strictly to this protocol.

In this time of Covid-19 social distancing, we ask that if you see us working in your field or parked on the road-side, that you maintain the 2 m social distancing recommendation. This will help to keep us all safe as we work to support the agriculture industry in Alberta.

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