



Biosecurity St Helena

Field trip protocol

When you visit a new site you run a big risk of introducing new invasive species to it as seeds, small insects or micro-organisms on your shoes, clothes or equipment. Similarly, you risk picking up new invasive species and taking them home with you in the same way. This simple protocol is aimed at reducing this risk.

Invasive species can spread accidentally, for example, by:

- Seeds stuck to or caught in folds of clothes, shoes and equipment - Velcro is especially good at catching seeds;
- Small seeds and invertebrates (especially their eggs) stuck in mud on shoes and equipment;
- Vehicles can carry all sorts of seeds, insects and other invertebrates inside, underneath and in the tyre treads;
- Pathogens (disease causing organisms), especially soil-borne fungi on shoes.

General rules:

- 1) If you have a set of clothes you regularly use for invasive species work in your usual sites, do not wear them to a new one. Leave them behind.
- 2) Take no food with seeds – no tomato, cucumber, apple, citrus, muesli bars, etc. Any food which falls or is left behind could have seeds which germinate and cause problems in the future.
- 3) Never drive a vehicle from an invasive species infested site to a natural area, as you may be actively spreading the invasive species.

Before you visit a new site:

- 4) Clean your shoes of all mud and dust, paying particular attention to the soles. Check the laces, any Velcro fastenings and the padded lining for seeds.
- 5) Check your clothes for seeds, especially along the hemlines and trouser turn-ups. Coats often have Velcro fastenings at the wrists and zip-line, check these for seeds.
- 6) Check your bag or rucksack. Shake it out thoroughly, and check it over for seeds. Pay particular attention to clasps, fastenings and padded straps, for trapped or hidden seeds.
- 7) Check over all equipment and clean it thoroughly. Particular attention should be paid to camping equipment, butterfly nets, fishing equipment, and any other equipment where seeds and invertebrates can be easily trapped and transported.
- 8) Finally, place all the clothes, shoes and equipment you are planning to take into the field with you in a plastic bin liner, spray inside with a commercial pyrethroid insecticide such as "Knockdown" or "Doom" and tie the bag up tightly. Leave it overnight.

After you leave a new site

Steps 4 to 8 above should be followed on departure. If you are planning to visit several, distinct, new sites one after the other at least steps 4 to 7 of this protocol should be followed between each one, moving from the most pristine site to the most invaded. If you're not sure which is most pristine, seek advice.

For further information please contact Julie Balchin, Biosecurity Officer, at julie.balchin@enrd.gov.sh.

Leave your problem invasive species at home, & don't take any new ones away with you