



Pacific Invasives Learning Network Field Trip Protocol

When you visit a new site, in your own country or overseas, you run a big risk of introducing new invasive species to it as seeds, small insects or microorganisms 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:

- Sticky seeds stuck to clothes, shoes and equipment
- Seeds caught by hooks or rough edges to clothes, shoes and equipment
- Seeds caught in folds of clothes (such as trouser turn-ups), crevices in shoes and equipment
- Small seeds and micro-organisms stuck in mud on shoes
- Small invertebrates (especially their eggs) caught in mud, folds of clothes, crevices in shoes and equipment.
- Vehicles can carry all sorts of seeds, insects and other invertebrates inside, underneath and in the tire 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 bring them to a new site. Leave them behind.
2. If you are planning to take food into the new site, take nothing 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, if possible wash it out with clean water, and check it over for seeds. Pay particular attention to clasps, fastenings and padded straps, for trapped or hidden seeds.
7. Check over any other equipment you are planning to take into the field, and clean it thoroughly. Particular attention should be paid to 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 and tie the bag up tightly. Leave it overnight. Commercial mosquito spray for use in homes, such as "Knockdown" or "Doom", is suitable.

After you leave a new site

Steps 4 to 8 above should be followed on departure. This is especially important if you are visiting a site overseas, and should be done **before** you get on the plane.

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.

*Leave your problem invasive species at home
Don't take any new ones away with you*