

## NT PLANT QUARANTINE & BIOSECURITY GUIDANCE NOTE

### NUMBER 4 – CLEANING FOOTWEAR AND HANDS

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#### 1.0 Background

- This guidance note sets out recommended procedures for staff to reduce the risk of inadvertently transmitting pathogens on work shoes, tools etc.
- Many plant pests and pathogens are readily transmitted by people.
- Pathogens in particular are often carried on soil and plant debris stuck to footwear.
- The guidance applies particularly to Garden and Conservation staff travelling between sites, and is vital when visiting a site where plant diseases like *Phytophthora* are known to be present.

#### 2.0 Who should follow the procedure?

- Staff who regularly travel from site to site (e.g. between gardens, woodlands and countryside) should follow adequate biosecurity measures to minimise the possibility of transmitting plant pests and pathogens during their visits.
- It is advisable that all other NT staff, volunteers and contractors are aware of the guidance and at the very least ensure that their footwear is free from soil and organic matter.

#### 3.0 Recommended standard disinfection kit (see attached photograph guide)

- Large washing bowl or plastic crate.
- Churn brush or similar stiff bristled brush.
- Water carrier and clean water.
- Disinfectant
  - “Jet 5” is recommended for general purpose.
  - “Cleankill Sanitising Spray” is recommended specifically against pathogens such as *Phytophthora ramorum* that produce difficult to kill thick-walled resting spores.
- A proprietary alcohol hand gel (sterile hand wash/no water required).
- The above items are all easily available from agricultural suppliers/ ironmongers, and should be carried in people’s’ vehicles.

#### 4.0 Recommended disinfection procedure (see illustrations below)

- Before entering and leaving a garden or natural habitat, wash off all mud and organic matter from footwear.
- Spray clean footwear with disinfectant.
- Dispose of used water away safely before leaving site.
- Lastly, clean hands with an alcohol gel.

## 5.0 Links for further information

- Disinfectants [http://intranet/intranet/i-bid-feature/i-h\\_s-feature/i-h\\_s\\_hs\\_atoz/i-h\\_s-coshh.htm](http://intranet/intranet/i-bid-feature/i-h_s-feature/i-h_s_hs_atoz/i-h_s-coshh.htm), then click on 'Gardens, Woods and Countryside (revised April 2008)'; "Jet 5" (No. 022); "Cleankill Sanitising Spray" (No. 240).
- One hand gel product ("Spirigel" by Ecolab) is already available to NT staff on the Catering COSHH List (Ref.039) and a Model Assessment is therefore already available on NT Intranet/H&S pages (see [http://intranet/intranet/i-bid-feature/i-h\\_s-feature/i-h\\_s\\_hs\\_atoz/i-h\\_s-coshh/i-h\\_s-coshh\\_models\\_catering\\_newpage-9.htm](http://intranet/intranet/i-bid-feature/i-h_s-feature/i-h_s_hs_atoz/i-h_s-coshh/i-h_s-coshh_models_catering_newpage-9.htm)).

## Photograph Guide of Standard Disinfection Kit and Procedure

### Disinfection kit



Washing bowl and long bristle brush



Clean water and water carrier



Ready to use disinfectant spray



Proprietary hand sanitising gel



## Disinfection procedure



Scrub soil and debris from boots



Dig stones and twigs from tread



Spray with disinfectant



Clean boots – ready for next visit!



Spray onto hands



Rub evenly across hands

### Conservation Directorate Guidance Note Information

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