

Weeds Sneak a Free Ride

Nearly 30 percent of family vehicles checked during a survey conducted in Victoria, AUSTRALIA, carried hitch-hiking noxious weed seeds, most often in the interior rather than underneath the car.

One 4-wheel drive wagon hauled 53 species of weed seed, more than could be expected on most farm machinery, observed weed scientist M. Moerkerk in a presentation to the recent Australian Weeds Conference.

Weed seeds, noted Dr. Moerkerk, are most likely to be deposited in vehicles by footwear--especially shoe laces, as well as by equipment and clothing. When in the field visiting areas infested by noxious or invasive plants, "we need to do a simple check of our gear and clothing" before re-entering a vehicle, he advised.

Moerkerk also cautioned that weed seeds found in a vehicle or on personal gear need to be carefully disposed of in a way that prevents them from germinating and spreading their presence. ->

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