

## **Greenhouse Boot Change-out RECOMMENDATIONS**

The SHEM Steering Committee sub-committee has created the following guidelines for greenhouse boots change out. Greenhouse staff wear boots mainly for pesticide application and for watering. Potential slipping/falls can occur when grower's boots have worn treads and soles. Long hours in boots on the concrete floors may cause sore backs and feet. To prevent injuries these recommendation were created to assist greenhouse staff to make informed decisions on how often to change their boots out.

These recommendations are for greenhouse managers, supervisors and growers. Everyone should follow the employee union contracts and site specific greenhouse policies.

### **Recommendations**

#### Greenhouse Boot Uses

- General use for watering plants within greenhouse and plant growth facilities
- For pesticide application Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Boots should be:
    - chemical resistant
    - water resistant
    - kept separate and used for pesticide applications only

#### Type of Greenhouse Boots

- Appropriate for their purpose
- When for PPE as stated on pesticide labeling
- Slip-resistant

#### Life Expectance

- Determined by:
  - Purpose
  - Personal wearing patterns
  - Amount of use
- When boots are new:
  - Date them
  - Label for intended purpose (pesticide application PPE or watering plants)

#### Integrity Checks

- Boots should be check on a regular basis
- Bi-annual SHEM Greenhouse Boots Change-Out Reminders

#### Boot Fit

- Fit: be sure to have a proper fit, not too big (tripping hazard) or small
- Support: good for ankles and arches
- Comfort: standing, movement and fit

### Boot Inserts

- May be helpful for comfort and cushion
- Should be changed when boots are changed

### PPE Worn with Boots

- Socks should be worn with pesticide application boot use

### Boot Storage

- General use boots should be stored out of the greenhouses and sun
- PPE boots should be stored:
  - with other pesticide application PPE
  - with proper labeling to indicate their purpose

### Recommended Training

- Greenhouse managers train new staff and users on proper wear and handling of boots
- SHEM Greenhouse Boots Change-Out Training Checklist
- Existing training tools where boot change-out can be incorporated:
  - Greenhouse manager new staff orientation
  - Greenhouse manager new user orientation and handouts