

Wheat Grass Standard Operating Procedure

January 2019

Materials

1. 12, 11"x21" flat trays with drainage holes
2. Vermiculite (located under potting bench in greenhouse)
3. Wheat grass and measuring cup (located in a white bucket to the left of the entrance to DV5036)
4. Dusk mask and nitrile gloves

Method

1) Planting

- I. Evenly distribute 1400ml of vermiculite in each tray. There is a red Folgers coffee container in the bin of vermiculite with a line indicating 1400ml. (fig.1)



Figure 1. Spread the vermiculite evenly throughout the tray making sure to cover all corners and edges.

- II. Smooth out the layer of vermiculite into an even layer, make sure to reach all edges

- III. Spread a 300ml of wheatgrass mix evenly across the vermiculite layer. There is a white container in the seed bucket with a line indicating 300ml. (fig. 2)



Figure 2. Spread the seed by sprinkling from high above to create evenness, go over corners and edges if lacking.

- IV. Sprinkle 500ml of the material until completely covering the seed with a thin layer of vermiculite. (fig. 3)



Figure 3. Using the bucket of vermiculite sprinkle a fine layer over the seed making sure cover the seed completely.

- V. Water trays until completely saturated
- VI. Add a germination lid onto the wheatgrass to promote even germination.



Figure 4. Cover the wheatgrass with a plastic germination lid

- VII. At the first sign of seed germination (approximately 2 days) remove the cover and allow the grass to grow for two weeks.



Figure 5. First sign of seed germination

2) Data Collection

- I. After planting the wheat grass locate the log book and ruler beside the wheatgrass seed stock bin, near the entrance to DV5036.
- II. Record the height of the week old wheatgrass, measuring from the base of the grass blade to the tip. (fig. 4)



Figure 4. Using the ruler estimate the height of the week old wheatgrass and record the data in the log book.

3) Stocking

- I. Vermiculite – Bags are located on a skid to the left as you enter the main doors of shipping and receiving department – Basement of the Davis Building.
- 1 bag of vermiculite should last approximately two weeks.
- II. Wheat grass – When there is approximately one week of seeds remaining, e-mail Angela Lang and she will have a bag delivered to the greenhouse.
1 bag should last approximately two months.

Purchase of seed and vermiculite

Professor Angela Lange (angela.lange@utoronto.ca) purchases and supplies both the vermiculite and wheat grass seed. Email Professor Lange with a request when the amount of stock has been reduced to approximately two weeks' worth (two buckets of seed or 2-3 bags of vermiculite).