

Storing *Verticillium* strains on filter paper at 4°C and -20°C

Communicated by Sharon Kirkpatrick, Tom Gordon Lab, UC Davis

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Use sterile technique in a laminar flow hood.

1. Sterilize 45mm Whatman filter papers, gravity @ 30mins; fan/separate the papers first.
2. Place one sterilized paper into center of a small petri plate (60mm x 15mm).
3. Either use a sterilized scalpel blade or toothpick to transfer a small amount of a pure culture to the center of the paper.
4. Parafilm plate, taking care not to dislodge the colonized agar.
5. Allow fungus to grow to edge of paper.
6. Once the paper is fully colonized, use flat end forceps to pry paper up off the agar.
7. Carefully place the paper into a new sterile petri dish. Leave in the laminar flow hood for 2-3 nights (& days if possible) until dry.
8. Cut 1/3rd of paper and place this into a small sterile coin envelope. Place the envelop into a freezer storage baggie. Store at -20C.
9. Cut the remaining paper into strips and then cut those stripes into a sterile 2 dram glass vial. These vials can then live in 4C.
10. Before the last few paper squares are used, start a new paper. Use the freeze portion of the paper as special/pure backup.

Special note about *Verticillium*: it tends to start digesting the paper, so don't wait too long before you peel the paper off the PDA. No need to wait for microsclerotia to develop.