

Diagnostic Tip of the Month

Long-term Freezer Storage of *Didymella bryoniae* on Filter Paper

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Cultures of *Didymella bryoniae* can be stored long term on filter paper in the freezer (-10° C).

Simply cut up a standard filter paper disc into small pieces, approximately 0.5-1.0 cm x 0.5-1.0 cm squares, and sterilize them in an autoclave. Transfer a small block of mycelium from a fungal culture to the center of a plate of PDA. With sterile forceps place individual filter paper pieces onto the surface of the same plate so that the pieces cover as much of the remaining surface of the medium without overlapping.

Incubate the plates at room temperature until the mycelium has grown across the filter paper pieces to the edge of the

plate (1-2 weeks). With sterile forceps carefully lift the filter paper pieces with mycelium from the plate, transfer them to a sterile petri dish and allow them to dry (uncovered) overnight in a transfer hood. Place the dried papers in a small paper coin envelope; place the envelopes in a re-sealable plastic bag, and store in the freezer (-10° C).

To recover the fungus, simply remove a single piece of filter paper from the envelope with sterile forceps (Fig A), place it on a fresh plate of PDA, and incubate at room temperature. We have used this procedure routinely to recover isolates of *D. bryoniae* after as long as seven years in the freezer.

Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

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The NPDN diagnostics subcommittee held a conference call on April 9, 2009. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the diagnostics subcommittee web page of the [NPDN web site](#) for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

Topics of discussion included:

- Scheduling of potato wart workshops.
- Beltsville-NPDN Diagnostician Training.
- Scheduling of the IT-Diagnosticians meeting.



Figure A

Continued on page 7...