

MycoMate®

UNDERGROUND

Difficulty
level:
Amateur

Edible Sclerotia Kit

INSTRUCTIONS:

⚠ Do not remove the micron filter-plug from the substrate bag.

1 INCLUDED:

- Micron-filtrated bag with growth media and injection site
- MycoMate® Liquid Culture Vial
- Sterile alcohol swabs

2 REQUIRED:

- Gas flame (a butane "torch-style" lighter works well)
- Clean hands and area to work
- sporeMate® Edible Spore Suspension Vial or spore syringe,
- MycoMate® Liquid Culture Vial (containing mycelium), or other suitable inoculant

3 Inoculation:

There are two options for inoculating (injecting) sclerotia kit:

A. Spores:

You may inject spores directly into growth substrate. This is a little less work but takes longer and occasionally not enough of the spores germinate. If this option is your choice then go directly to step #1 (below).

B. Liquid Culture:

For much quicker colonization, and larger yields you must first inoculate and colonize a MycoMate® Liquid Culture Vial and then inject the liquid culture into the bag of growth substrate. Spores of sclerotia-producing species can take longer to germinate on grain than typical mushroom species so liquid culture can provide a shortcut. If this is your option then follow steps #1 through #11 in the instructions included with the MycoMate® Liquid Culture Vial before going on to step #1. Note: With option B (Liquid Culture) you must utilize a reliable and sterile product for injecting into the liquid culture vial or you will risk contamination. However, if the Liquid Culture becomes contaminated you may discard it and return to option A (Spores).



1. While holding the injection site of the substrate bag with one hand, lift the two plastic tabs with the other hand and gently tear off the plastic disc protecting the injection area. Swab with fresh alcohol swab and let dry. (See picture a)

2. Remove syringe and needle from bag. Remove the plastic shield protecting the needle (twist clockwise then pull). Do not touch the tip of the needle to anything else or it must be re-sterilized*. If utilizing syringe and needle from another supplier then it must first be sterilized.

*Needles may be sterilized with a flame. You want tip of needle to become red but must be careful not to overheat and melt the area where the needle is attached to the plastic. Always let needle cool before injecting it. Additionally, do not breath directly on injection sites or needle. (See picture b)

3. Push the needle of the syringe (filled with colonized liquid culture or spore suspension) through the injection site of the substrate bag. (See picture c)

Spores: Use the injection site to guide the needle and inject 1 to 2 ml into each corner and along the sides of the substrate bag. Let the solution drip down the sides of the substrate bag. Include several drops on top of the substrate. The more evenly the substrate is injected, the quicker the colonization.

Liquid culture: Use the injection site to guide needle and inject 1-2 drops into each corner and along the sides of the substrate bag. Let the solution drip down the sides of the substrate bag. Include several drops on top of the substrate. Each drop of liquid culture represents a point of growth so the more evenly the substrate is injected, the quicker the colonization.

4 Colonization:

Incubate the substrate bag at the appropriate temperature (typically 22° to 24° C).

Spores: Within several days to two weeks spores will germinate (little cottony growths) and the fungus will colonize the bag over several weeks. If germination (growth of the fungus) is not evenly distributed throughout the bag within 14 to 21 days you can speed up colonization by gently mixing the bag's contents. Only mix the contents of the bag one time so that the fungus can then complete colonization.

Liquid culture: Within 24 to 72 hours the fungus will spring to life and in one to two weeks colonize the substrate, depending upon the species and strain.

5 Harvesting:

Although you may begin to harvest the sclerotia earlier, it's advised to wait 12 to 24 weeks minimum before harvesting. The longer you wait, the greater the yield, and the larger the sclerotia become. Speed of colonization, yields, and characteristics vary between species and strains.

Pour the contents of the colonized substrate bag onto a clean table and separate the sclerotia from the grain. Store in refrigerator or dry until crisp. Sclerotia may be cloned to obtain a pure strain by utilizing a MycoMate® Cloning Kit.

Tip: For best results utilize sporeMate® brand spore suspensions with MycoMate® brand growth products.

More info @ www.mycomate.com and www.sporemate.com