

Smith, B. R. Storage of ascospores in water.

Ascospores may be stored in sterile water for periods of up to a year at room temperature and up to eighteen months at 4°C without appreciable loss in viability. Even longer periods of storage without great loss in viability may be possible, but no tests have been made.

Ascospores are harvested by shaking crosses in sterile water, followed by filtration through two layers of cheese cloth to remove large mycelial fragments. Suspensions are left to stand for 30 min to allow the ascospores to settle out. Excess water, containing conidia, is pipetted off leaving a clean suspension. For storage, 1/2 oz. screw-capped bottles are convenient.

In a series of ten crosses of his-5 X pyr-3 mutants stored for 18 months at 4°C, the loss in viability varied between 2 and 12% with no detectable change in viability due to genotype. It is not known whether ascospores of other genotypes survive as well when stored for long periods in water.

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