

Germination Protocol

1. Germination should be checked a full two days after the rack has been moved into the warm, lighted chamber (i.e. after the seeds have come out of cold stratification).
2. Obtain the appropriate spreadsheet for data recording from the lab or experiment manager.
3. Start checking at the back left of the rack, where the lowest pot number should be located. Look at the particular pot in question starting with the upper left position (position 1) and working clockwise around the plant through positions 2, 3, and 4. The number of seeds planted is determined at the beginning of an experiment, and may therefore differ from one to the next. Be sure that you know how many seeds to look for, and check this number against the number of columns for germination date on the spreadsheet.

If all you can see is the seeds, then nothing has germinated yet in that pot.

4. If you can see a little bit of green or the hypocotyl, then the plant has germinated. Record the date of germination in that plant's particular column. This will be either the JULIAN date or the day since removal from cold stratification of the seeds. Check with the lab or experiment manager to know which one is correct. **ALL DATES MUST BE RECORDED IN THE CORRECT FORMAT.**
5. Move on to the next pot.
6. Each time you finish a tray or block (whichever your expt has), save the file using the SAVE command from the FILE pull-down in excel.
7. If there are more seeds or germinants than the total number that were supposed to have been planted per pot, note this fact in the comments column for the pot. (See comment sheet for codes if this experiment uses comment codes).
8. When all of the pots have been checked, save the file again.