

## Protocol–wet moss treatment to break seed dormancy

Hui Jiang 2013

### Procedure

1. After harvesting, dry seeds in seed dryer (set at 30°C) for three days.
2. Add long fiber sphagnum moss into the zip-lock bag, and add sufficient water to wet them completely but do not oversaturate.
3. Wrap *Setaria* seed in nylon mesh, using a twist tie to seal. Write seed information on the mesh using waterproof ink.
4. Put the wrapped seeds into the bag containing the wet moss. Leave some air in the bag, and then zip lock the bag. (see pictures at the end of the document)
5. Keep the bag at 4°C in dark for 3-6 weeks for stratification.
6. After stratification, remove the mesh with seeds from the bag.
7. Seeds can be immediate planted into soil, or kept in envelopes and stored for a few months (T: 24.06 °C±0.13 °C, RH: 21.79±1.15%) before planting , which can still retain a 95% germination rate after a few months storage).

### Result

Using this protocol, a germination rate of 50-80% can be achieved in A10.1 after 2 weeks and 85%-95% after 3 weeks. For most *Setaria* species, six weeks stratification can completely break seed dormancy. This protocol can also be applied to other grass species such as *Dichanthelium*.

Product order information:

1. **Long Fiber Sphagnum Moss:**

<http://www.joshsfrogs.com/substrates-for-reptiles-and-amphibians/long-fiber-sphagnum-moss.html>

2. **Mesh:**

Nylon mesh Cat. No. U-CMN-140-C

Components Supply Company: (preferred)  
1220 New Hope Road  
Fort Meade, FL 33841 US

Supplier Phone

+1 (863) 738-0084

