

**United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service, Science & Technology
Microbiological Data Program**

MDP-LABOP-02 SOP Appendix F

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Sprouts (Alfalfa/Clover) (SR)

Sample Preparation - Test ~50g. Perform all manipulations using sterile technique. Wear sterile gloves to remove the produce from the sample bag for transfer to other sterile bags for weighing. Remove any obvious clumps of dirt or any extraneous material clinging to the produce without damaging the sample. Tare a sterile bag and add the sample to bag. The laboratory may elect to add the eluent directly to the sample bag, rather than transferring the commodity to a new bag. Each sample shall be washed and incubated individually.

Eluent and Sample Wash - Add UPB eluent to an appropriate volume based on the individual capacity of the stomacher. Remove as much air as possible and close the bag. Rock the bag, alternating from side to side, back and forth, and up and down for approximately 10 seconds, at a rate of about one full side to side motion per second. Place bag in stomacher for 2 minutes at normal speed (medium setting). After stomaching, add sterile UPB to bring the total volume to approximately **9X the sample weight**. Aseptically remove disintegrated strings of sprouts from the wash and incubate the remaining wash at $42 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 22–26 hours for pre-enrichment.

Positive Produce Control - Refer to SOP MDP-QA-03 and specific method SOPs for control set-up. Weigh one additional (~50g) sample from the leftover samples received. If necessary, excess material may be combined from the 3 sub-samples of that commodity in order to obtain the additional ~50g. Add eluent and wash/stomach. Separate the produce from the wash. For SOPs MDP-MTH-04 and MDP-MTH-11, add 1 mL of the positive control cultures from each method to the remainder of the sample wash. Do not pool cultural (media) controls or the positive produce control. These shall be analyzed individually.

Post-enrichment for all analyses - After 22-26 hour incubation, remove UPB pre-enriched samples from the incubator. Thoroughly mix.

Subsequent Analyses - Extract DNA according to section 6.6 of SOP MDP LABOP-02. Proceed with subsequent analyses according to the SOPs MDP-MTH-04 and MDP-MTH-11 for individual UPB-enriched samples.

Disclaimer: Reference to brand names (kits, equipment, media, reagents, etc.) does not constitute endorsement by this agency.