

Harvest protocol

Check the status of all unharvested hds in all block of all experimental plots. Walk through the plots in a systematic pattern to make sure you look at every head. You should make note of each hd you look at on the datasheet. The harvest datasheet is divided into blocks and sorted by row & position. Note that some rows may be on multiple pages!

The standard harvest indicators are as follows:

1. Phyllaries (involucral bracts) are brown
2. Bracts that subtend each disc floret are brown and sharp
3. Flower stalk (peduncle) is brown (not purple)
4. 1st (uppermost) cauline lf is brown (note: 1st lf may be close to hd!)

Once harvest indicators 1 – 4 are positive, or if a head has **loose achenes** or is in some way deformed and you think achenes may be lost before the next harvest, harvest the hd! Make sure to look for loose achenes at the top of every hd with brown bracts.

To harvest a hd grasp it and the tt (twist-tie) in your hand firmly. Then cut the peduncle with the scissors 3 cm under the hd. Place the head and tt carefully into a labeled bag. You don't need to open the bag all the way and the hd doesn't need to go all the way to the bottom of the bag, but fold the bag shut firmly.

Enter data carefully. Especially make sure that data are unambiguous in the "gbag" column. Precede each note with your gbag code. Note the count of all achenes that have fallen off the hd and how many you collect from the ground (e.g. 18 achenes fell out, 14 of these collected). Note all tts collected, including tts from duds. Be neat. Strike through mistakes with a single line! When you complete page of harvesting, note you gbag code in the lower right corner of the page to facilitate checking for completion. Notes for a whole day, not specific to a hd, can go on the "legend" datasheet.

The letno (2 letters, 3-4 numbers) should be written on the bag with the corresponding hd. Note: write the Letno at the bottom of the bag so it is readable when the bag is folded.

Also, **please double check the letno** because this is the only code that connects each harvested hd with its position in the common garden!

Equipment & supplies list:

scissors/pruners
grocery bags

sharpie
egg cartons
clipboard

pen
collection bags
datasheets

At the end of the day: check all datasheets for completion (look in lower right corners) and verify that notes are clear, make sure all groc bag and other supplies are brought inside, label all grocery bags with harvest date. Store grocery bags in a dry area at room temp away from rodents!

Pay attention to heads in certain experiments; they may have specific handling requirements. E.g. in 2014 an "O" in column S-3 indicates the hd belongs in an egg carton instead of in a collection bag. Be sure to label egg cavities and cartons in a uniform manner.