

Tissue culture and cryopreservation

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Tissue culture is used all over the world for mass production of clonal plants. It involves multiplying shoots under sterile conditions in closed containers (usually glass or plastic jars or tubes) on an artificial nutrient medium. This nutrient medium contains minerals, organic compounds (sugar, vitamins, growth factors, plant growth regulators) and agar. The containers together with the medium are autoclaved ('cooked' at high temperature and pressure) to kill all micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi which, if not eliminated, would otherwise overgrow and foul the medium.