**SWITCHGRASS FIRST PLANTING PROCEDURE**

**Materials:**

Rooted Switchgrass shoots

3 inch square plastic pots or similar

2-ply cheesecloth

Clean (autoclaved or microwaved) soil mix, such as Redi-Eart

Mosquito Bits (Summit Chemical) to control for Fungus Gnats

Scissors: medium and fine point

Sharpie marker

Nitrile gloves

Time Tape

Plastic flat trays, inserts, ~3 inch pots, and clear plastic domes: short and tall

diH2O

Nutrient Water

**Procedure:**

**Preparing Pots: For a flat of 32 pots**

1. Cut cheesecloth into 2-ply squares to fit bottom pots and place in each
2. Place tray insert into flat tray, and fit in the 32 pots
3. Add cleaned soil to each pot and tap tray on counter several times to settle soil but without compacting it
4. Cover with a dome and store in dark at 4 deg. C

**Planting:**

1. To a fresh tray and tray insert, insert sufficient pots for the number of rooted shoots to be planted
2. Add Mosquito Bits to each of these pots. I added ~25 Bits per pot and mixed them into the soil just prior to planting
3. Label each pot appropriately using Time Tape or a small plastic plant marker stake
4. Remove the lid of the PhytaTray and fill it 2/3 with diH2O
5. Carefully remove a rooted shoot from PhytaTray containing Rooting Medium. Using a fine point scissors, cut off any excess dead tissue
6. Dip the rooted end of the shoot into the water and gently massage away any MS-M medium that has adhered to the plant
7. Place the cleaned plant into a pot to which a small depression has been made. Gently pat the soil mix up around the base of the plant
8. Add ~1/2 diH2O & 1/2 Nutrient Water to each pot by top-watering. Add enough to thoroughly moisten the soil mix and so a small amount drips through the cheesecloth.
9. Place a tall clear dome on the flat. Place under lights in Room 290 Growth Room.
10. Monitor flat daily. Remove dome after ~3 days. Discard any dead/dying shoots. Feed with Nutrient water once a week. **Let soil dry between waterings**. Monitor for fungus gnats.
11. Once plants appear to be developing new shoots, place flat in Room 310 for David Lowry's group. They will assume plant care and transplanting as needed.