SUCCESSFUL GROWTH CONDITIONS FOR ARABIDOPSIS
THALIANA var. LANDSBERG ERECTA

Rachel Leech
(Department of Biology, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD.
FAX +44-904-432917.)

* Several people have asked me how we grow such good healthy
Arabidopsis plants. Keith Partridge, our excellent plant-growth assistant,
gives them daily attention and care and this is the method he finds works
very well.

1. GROWTH ROOM
   (i) 20oC  16 h day length
       15oC  8 h dark (night depression 5oC).
   (ii) Relative humidity 60-70%.
   (iii) Philips fluorescent tubes, warm white, giving c. 70 wm-2

2. SOIL
   (i) Fisons' F2 seed and cutting compost.

3. SOWING
   (i) Two 1/4" deep seed-trays (14" x 9") are filled with Fisons F2, to about
       1/4" from the top of the tray and then levelled off and firmed with a flat
       piece of wood (8" x 4" x 1/2") bolted to a strong handle.
   (ii) Seeds are sown as thinly as possible and covered lightly with extra
        soil using a fine sieve (about 1/8" diameter holes). The seed tray is then
        covered with a domed plastic-seed-tray cover to eliminate any further
        watering until well after germination (c. 4 days). For the first week after
        germination watering is with a fine spray from a spray gun. After that, a
        watering-can with a very fine spray is suitable.

* Our gardener stresses that he thinks the watering mode and using the
seed tray with a fitted cover are both very important as the plants are
very delicate when they first come through. This is particularly true for