



ASBC Method Highlight: Microbiological Control-5

How is this method useful?

Media selection is the cornerstone of any brewing microbiology program, and understanding the differences and applications of each type of medium can make the difference between getting ahead of a microbial contamination or being blissfully unaware until the customer complaints start rolling in. [ASBC Micro-5](#) is an excellent crash course in the different types of medium that are available in a craft brewer's toolkit and their application in brewing labs.

Typically, general culture media are used to track colonies of indicator organisms that can be used to find and eliminate contamination vectors before more serious beer-spoilers can get in. Differential culture media are used to easily distinguish colonies based on colony morphology, and selective media are used to optimize the growth of specific organisms of interest while suppressing the growth of others.

Would you like to start a micro program, but are put off by the cost of expensive media?

Keep that budget in check by making your own media from scratch. ASBC Micro-5 walks you through the ingredients and preparation methods for a variety of 12 different differential culture and selective media types to screen for indicator organisms, beer-spoiling bacteria, and wild yeast contaminants, including:

- Cycloheximide Medium
- LMDA (Lee's Multi-Differential Agar)
- RRLM (Raka-Ray Lactic Acid Bacteria Medium)
- Lysine Medium for wild yeast
- LWYM (Lin's Wild Yeast Differential Medium)
- BMB (Barney–Miller Brewery Medium) for *Lactobacillus* and *Pediococcus*
- MRS (De Man, Rogosa, and Sharpe Medium) for *Lactobacillus* and *Pediococcus*
- MYGP + Copper Medium for wild yeast
- CLEN medium for wild yeast
- SMMP (Selective Medium for *Megasphaera* and *Pectinatus*)
- Nystatin Medium
- HLP (Hsu's *Lactobacillus* and *Pediococcus* Medium)

Brush up on your micro skills!

To get the most out of your micro program and avoid false alarms, be sure you have mastered [ASBC Micro-1: Aseptic Sampling](#) and [ASBC Micro-2: Detection of Microorganisms](#). Boost your ability for colony identification with [Micro-3: Differential Staining](#) and be sure to reference the [ASBC Identification Guide for Common Brewery-Related Microorganisms](#). For further advice on implementation of a new or growing craft brewing micro program, check out the Craft Brewing Subcommittee's webinar "[Introduction to Brewing Microbiology](#)."