

Treatments	Consistency with storage (4°C and/or room temp.)	Comments on consistency in the miniblock cells.
1. 4.5 % w/v α -cellulose, no methyl cellulose 0.2% w/v phytigel	-Gel separates with overnight storage and medium clumps	Runny as compared to media with methyl cellulose. The liquid components with dissolved nutrients and sugars seep out of α -cellulose matrix into and through miniplugs. This causes the bottom of blocks to be sticky with nutrients and promotes microbial growth on the bottom of blocks.
2. 4.5% w/v α -cellulose, 1% w/v methyl cellulose, 0.1% w/v phytigel	- Gel does not separate with storage and medium is smooth	Dispenses well into the cells. Structure maintained over a one week period.
3. 5% w/v α -cellulose, 1% w/v methyl cellulose, 0.1% w/v phytigel	- Gel does not separate with storage and medium is smooth	Dispenses well into the cells. Structure maintained over a one week period.
4. 4.5% w/v α -cellulose, 1% w/v methyl cellulose, 0.2 % w/v phytigel	- Gel does not separate with storage and medium is smooth	Dispenses well into the cells. Structure maintained over a one week period.
5. 5% w/v α -cellulose, 1% w/v methyl cellulose, 0.2% w/v phytigel	- Gel does not separate with storage and medium is smooth	Dispenses well into the cells. Structure maintained over a one week period.
6. 4.5% w/v α -cellulose, 0.75% w/v methyl cellulose, 0.1% w/v phytigel	- Gel does not separate with storage and medium is smooth	Dispenses well into the cells. Structure maintained over a one week period. Reduced amount of methyl cellulose maybe better for automated dispensing
7. 5% w/v α -cellulose, 0.75% w/v methyl cellulose, 0.1% w/v phytigel	- Gel does not separate with storage and medium is smooth	Dispenses well into the cells. Structure maintained over a one week period. Reduced amount of methyl cellulose maybe better for automated dispensing