

# Defoliation

## Preparation

- Use clean sharp scissors only
- At day 21 and 42:
  - Reduce Irrigation events for 24-48hrs
  - Use gloves, long sleeves and hat to prevent contact with trichomes.

## Procedure

### 1. Cutting

- Cut branches off as close to the main stem as possible without damaging the node.
- Cut leaves off as close to the branch as possible without damaging the node, however for faster cutting this may not be possible.

### 2. Handling Biomass

- Allow branches and leaves to fall onto the bench (avoid floor).
- Once finished, collect all biomass from bench and place into **black sacks**.

### 3. Cleaning

- Vacuum benches thoroughly to remove small leaves and cuttings.
- Ensure all biomass is removed to prevent mold and insects.
- Clean and sanitize scissors after use.
- Empty vacuum and discard collected waste appropriately.

### 4. Canopy Management

- Space colas/branches evenly in the scrog.
- Ensure light is evenly distributed across all plants with no canopy gaps.

## Notes

- The scheduled defoliation must be completed on the same day.
- If any signs of browning leaf tips, mold, or insects are observed, notify the Team Lead immediately.

## Schedule

### Day 1 – Flower

- Remove only minor lower branches (bottom 10%) that will not receive sufficient light.

### Day 14 – Flower

- Remove only minor lower branches (bottom 10%) that will not receive light or fail to reach the scrog net.

### Day 21 - Flower

1. Remove minor lower branches that will not receive light or fail to reach the scrog net.
2. Remove:
  - All fan leaves wider than 3 cm.
  - Any flowers or shoots from the bottom 15% of the plant.

### Day 42 - Flower

- Remove all fan leaves wider than **3 cm**, focusing on those on top colas.
- Remove any sugar and fan leaves that are **dying from the tips inward**.
- These leaves must be removed before they reach the flower and cause mold.





