

Servomyces

(Will it help a Mead Fermentation?)



Q: Will using Servomyces (AKA "Servo") help my mead ferment?

A: Based on a January 2005 chat with Dr. Tobias Fischborn (Lallemand scientist) where he answered various questions about Servo, I would think there is insufficient evidence to assert it is a proven winner in making mead (note his use of words like "limited, and "should"):

- Servomyces is a brewing yeast that has been around for a long time. Due to the way Servomyces is made the yeast itself is not very vital. It will never out-compete healthy yeast.
- If you use as recommended it will be used in the last 5-10mins of the boil.
- A mixture of yeast, process, and zinc makes Servomyces unique.
- Servomyces sold in the U.S. are already dead and can not be reused (unculturable).
- The main reason for the boil addition is to pasteurize the Servomyces - boiling also seems to increase the effect of Servomyces.
- There is no urea in Servomyces it is not accepted in potable alcohol production.
- The use of Servo in mead making is *limited*. It *should still work* with mead, but it would be advisable to boil the Servomyces in some water before adding to your mead. [**Highest Note**: This statement tells me Lallemand has performed little (or no) testing of Servo in mead musts].

Personally, I do not use Servo. I also do not see the need to use it - all my mead fermentations progress fine using a staggered nutrient addition schedule. Moreover, the unit cost of nutrients & DAP is much less expensive than Servo:

- Servo costs ~\$9.50/ 6 capsules, or ~\$1.58/cap
- Depending on your OG you'll need 1-2 caps / 5 gallon batch
- The 5 gallon batch cost for the staggered nutrient addition method (proven effective) is ~24¢.

Let's see, Servo's effectiveness is unproven in mead, costs 6½ times more than adding staggered nutrients, needs to be boiled in water first, and then it might help...?  

Thanks, but I'll stick to adding staggered nutrients...

A Highest FAQ
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