**Q: How close to 20 x 20 cm do the bags need to be?**

*A: Stress to students to take careful measurements, but if you end up ±2cm that’s okay.*

**Q: The protocol says we should "collect senesced leaves from the same plants that you used to gather green leaf material by gently..."  Does this literally mean the exact same trees or just the same species?**

*A: Ideally, we mean exactly the same trees. However, if that’s not possible for whatever reason, then collect from the same species in the same general area. Please record that information when you submit leaves to Jose-Luis. (And thanks to Jose-Luis for running these analyses!)*

**Q: The native leaves have senesced but the invasive species stays green around here for weeks more.  What should we do?**

*A:  Collect each species when it senesces (it will be at different times). Store the early-collected leaves in newspaper in a dry place.*

**Q: Is it okay to collect the leaves for each species over the course of a few days rather than all at once?**

*A: Yes.*

**Q: Then should I wait to do weighing, etc. until we have both species collected?**

*A: We think this makes the most sense since you will be weighing out combinations for most of the litterbags. It’s best to weigh and then stuff into the litterbag immediately after weighing to minimize particle loss.*

**Q: Is it OK to collect the leaves and air dry between newspapers, but remove the petioles once the leaves are dry?** Since my students will be headed out for break, I don't think we will have time to remove the petioles immediately after collection.  Would waiting until they are dry be OK for petiole removal?  Then this could be done with scissors as a class activity?

*A:  Sure, you can remove the petioles after they are dry (but warn students to be gentle handling the leaves so the leaves don't crumble). This could also be done immediately pre-weighing.*

**Q: .The protocols specify to moisten the leaves before air-drying. I was thinking of spreading out the leaves in batches into a large soil screen I have, and rinsing gently with deionized water.  Is this an appropriate method?**

*A: The idea is just to have them JUST moist enough to be able to lie flat -- so, the soil screen method should work, though you may want to use a spray bottle to mist them rather than a full rinse. They don’t need to be wet, just not over-dry.*

**Q: Can’t we use herbaceous pairings?**

*A: The project is primarily focusing on woody shrubs and trees. However, if you have already been working with a particular pairing, we will use your data as an outgroup in this first year’s dataset in consideration for possible expansion in future years.*

**Q: Is anyone else overwhelmed by all of this?!**

*A: We hope only (or at least primarily) in a “this is a lot of work but it will be really rewarding” way. We certainly do understand that there are challenges with this type of project, including when to collect leaves (which often can’t be done in one swoop), where to store the leaves when they are dry in labs, classrooms, and offices in which space is at a premium, and finding the balance between the curricular and research needs of this project. We thank you profusely for your participation during these pilot phases and we hope that with feedback from your experiences we can continue to refine the protocols and curriculum to meet the needs of you and our students as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Thank you!*