Metrc Support Bulletin

Bulletin Number: MA_IB_0033	**Distribution Date**: 11/25/20	**Effective Date**: 11/30/2020
Contact Point: Metrc® Support	**Subject**: Mother Plant Testing Requirements for Tissue Culture	
Reason: Metrc and the Cannabis Control Commission are providing guidance on the process to record the creation and testing of mother plants, and propagation of Tissue Cultures in Metrc		

Greetings Metrc Users,

Metrc, in conjunction with the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), is providing guidance on the process for Cultivator licenses to record Tissue Cultures in Metrc.

From the CCC's guidance:

Licensees may now use tissue cultures to propagate cannabis provided that Licensees adhere to the *Protocol for Sampling and Analysis of Finished Medical Marijuana Products and Marijuana-infused Products* and the *Protocol for Sampling and Analysis of Environmental Media for Massachusetts Registered Marijuana Dispensaries* (collectively, the "testing protocols").

Pursuant to 935 CMR 500.160(2) and 935 CMR 501.160(2), all Licensees seeking to use tissue cultures in cultivation must test the mother plant sourcing the tissue culture(s) for pesticides and heavy metals. This is an additional testing requirement and does not replace the requirement for Licensees to test finished product in accordance with the testing protocols.

This document will review the following steps in the process:

1. Creating a Mother Plant Test Items
2. Creating a Manicure Harvest batch from Mother Plant
3. Creating a package of the material required for testing
4. Creating and Submitting 3 Test Sample Packages for:
    a. Mother Plant Flower Material (heavy metals & pesticides)
    b. Mother Plant Source Water
    c. Mother Plant Growth Medium
5. Verifying TestPassed Status
6. Creating an Immature Plant Batch of Tissue Cultures from Mother Plant

Please see the following pages for more details:

Create Mother Plant Test Items

Before packages of mother plant material for testing can be created, items must first be created to define the mother plant testing material by strain. To do this, the user must have Admin permissions to create items. This page can be reached under the Admin area on the top navigational bar, as seen in **Figure 1**.

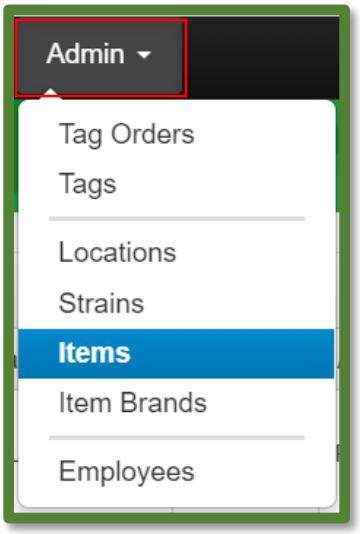

Figure 1: Navigation to Items Screen

Once on the Items screen, select the "New Items" button to create their waste packages item, as seen in **Figure 2**.

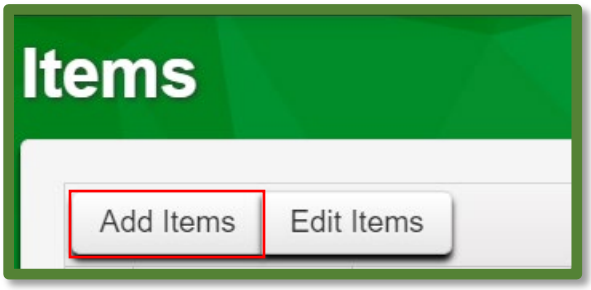

Figure 2: Add Items Button

This button will trigger an action window to create new items. Utilize the "Tissue Culture" item category and add an item name that indicates it is Mother Plant Test Material and strain for this example:

Tissue Culture - Mother Plant Test Material – Blue Dream

Please note that the Tissue Culture item category is weight-based, and **No photos are required** for these items. This step can be seen below in **Figure 3.**

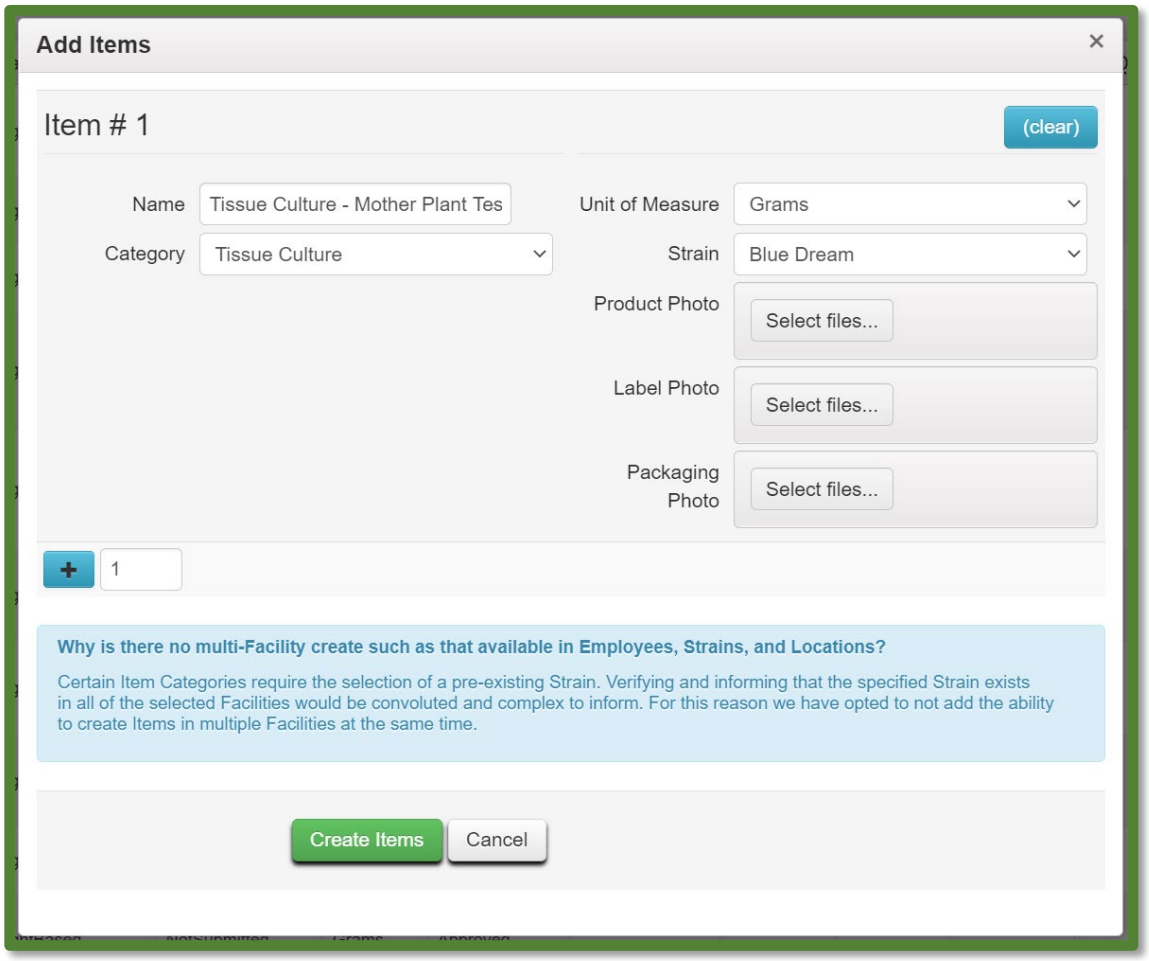

Figure 3: Create Tissue Culture Item Action Window

Additionally, the process will need to be repeated to create items for the growth medium and source water test samples. These items will also be under the "Tissue Culture" item category and indicate the strain. For this example, we created the following items:

Tissue Culture – Mother Test Material – Growth Medium – Blue Dream

Tissue Culture – Mother Test Material – Source Water – Blue Dream

Once these items have been created, the user is ready to begin the next step.

Create Manicure Harvest Batch from Mother Plant

Once the item for the strain-specific mother plant test material has been created, the next step will be to create a manicure harvest batch from the Mother Plant. To do this, navigate to their plants' menu and select the Mother Plant, which is being used as the tissue culture's genetic base. Once selected, use the "Manicure" button. This step is shown in **Figure 4**.

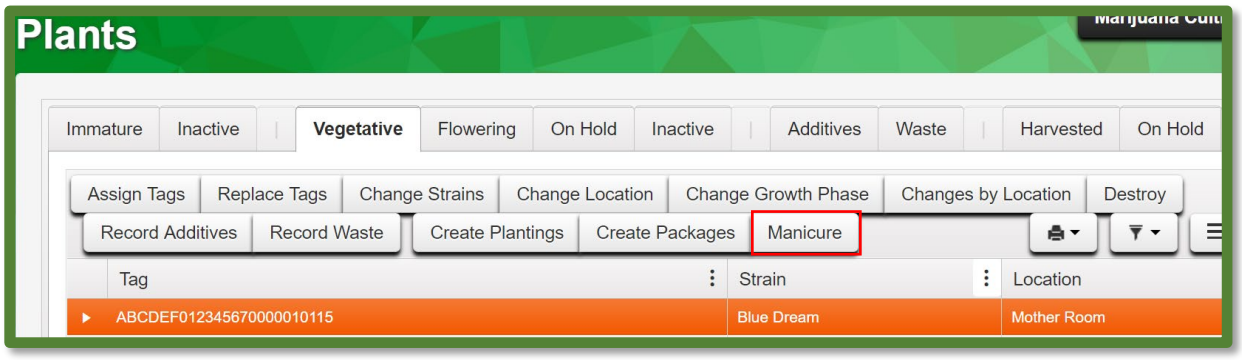

Figure 4: Create Manicure Harvest from the Mother Plant

Using this button will trigger an action window where a manicure harvest batch will be created. Then enter the required information, including the harvest name, location, strain, planting date, plant count, and the package date.

Please Note: *When creating the Manicure Harvest Batch, use the* ***combined weight of the three separate samples*** *(flower, source water, and growth medium).*

Once the information is completed, use the green "Manicure Plants" button to complete the process, as shown below in **Figure 5**.

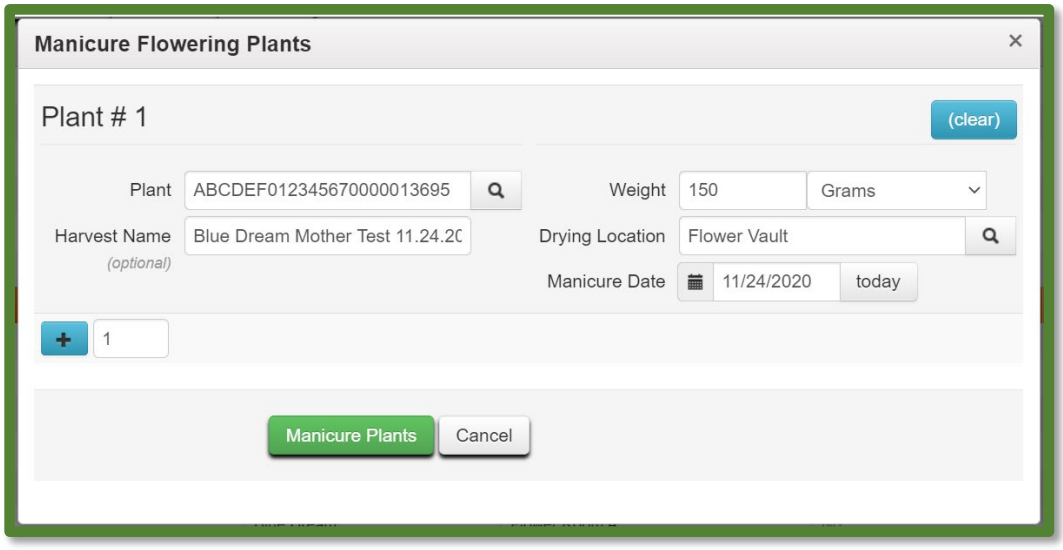

Figure 5: Create a Manicure Harvest Batch from Mother Plant Action Window

Create Test Material Package

In the next step, a package of the Mother Plant material will be created based on the 3 test samples. To do this, select the manicure harvest batch created in the previous step and use the "Create Packages" button. This step is shown in **Figure 6.**

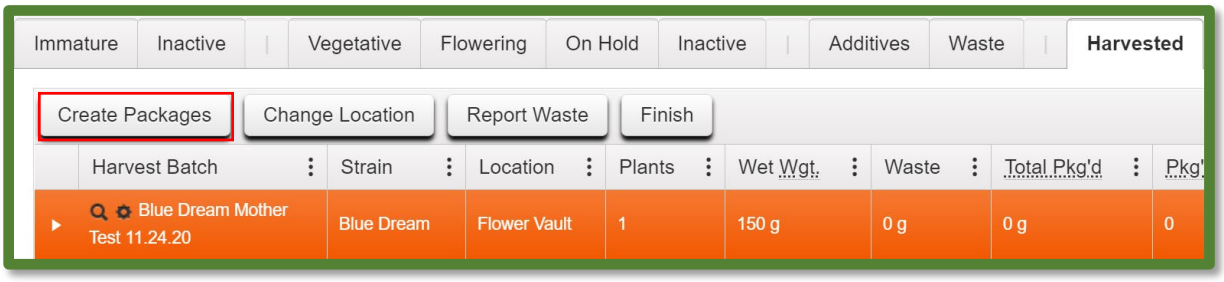

Figure 6: Select Tissue Culture Plant Batch and Create Package

Selecting this button will trigger an action window to record the following information: Package tag number, the weight of the material the package, location, item (use the mother test material item created in the previous steps), and package date. Once the information is completed, select the green "Create Packages" button to finish this step. This process is demonstrated in **Figure 7**.

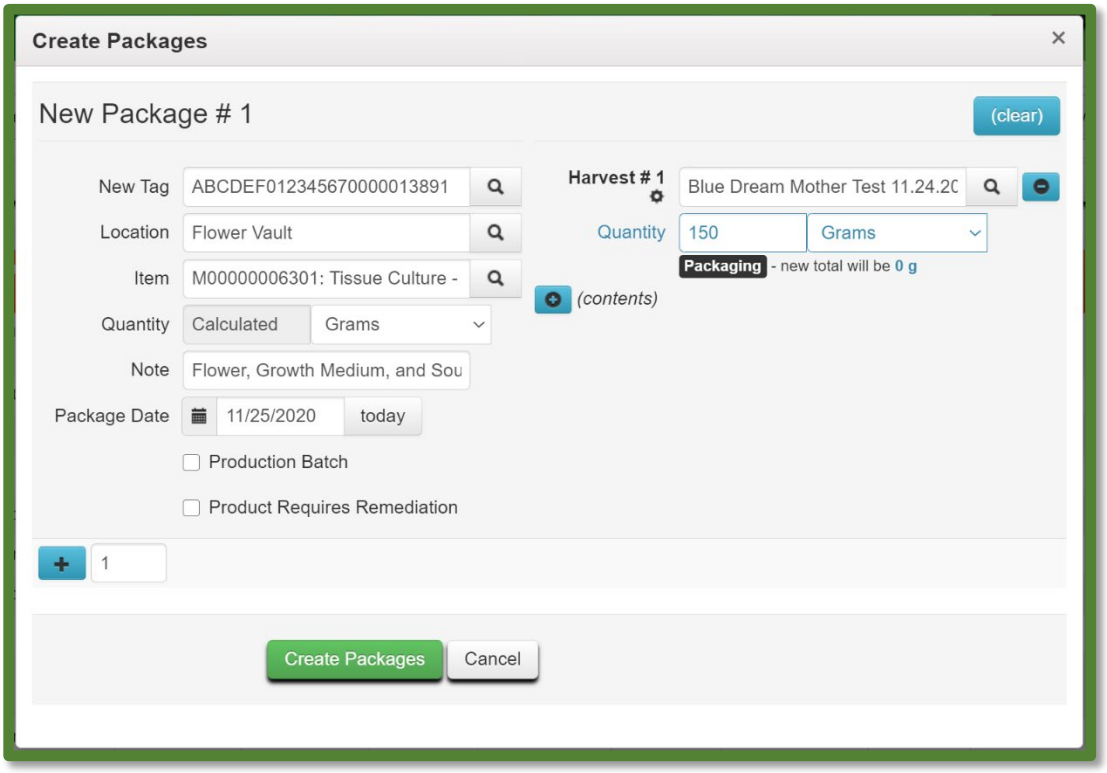

Figure 7: Create Mother Test Material Package

Create and Submit Test Sample Packages for the Mother Plant

Now that the Mother Plant Test Material package has been created, the next step is to create and submit the test sample packages. To do this, navigate to the Packages grid, select the new Mother Plant Test Material package created in the previous step, and use the "Submit for Testing" button. This step is shown below in **Figure 8**.

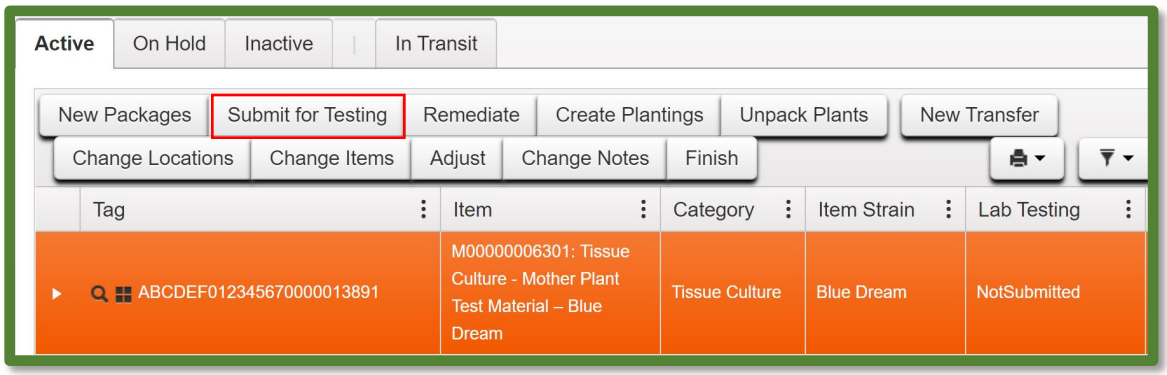

Figure 8: Select Tissue Culture Package and Create Test Sample

This button will trigger an action window to appear to create the test sample packages in Metrc.

The CCC will require three sample packages to be created from this package:

1. **Flower Material**
2. **Source Water**
3. **Growth Medium**

Please note that the item will not change for the flower material sample, but for source water and growth medium samples, the item must change to reflect the correct sample type.

These steps to create these test sample packages are illustrated in **Figures 9-11** below.

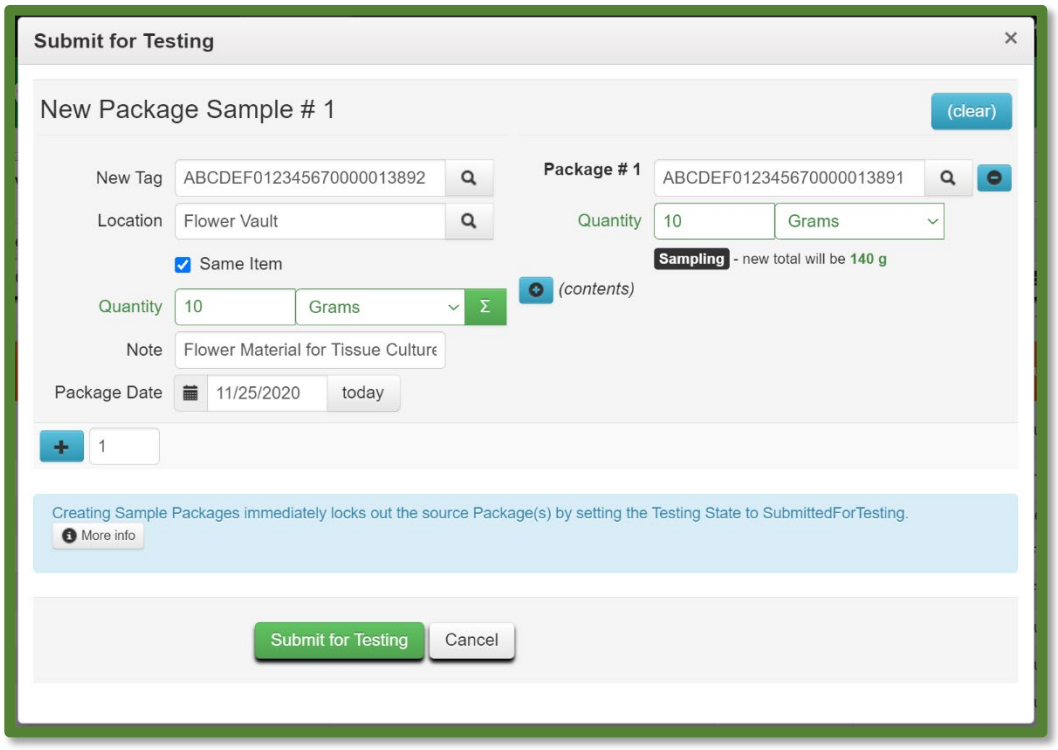

Figure 9: Create Test Sample Package for Pesticides and Heavy Metals

Figure 10: Create Test Sample for Source Water

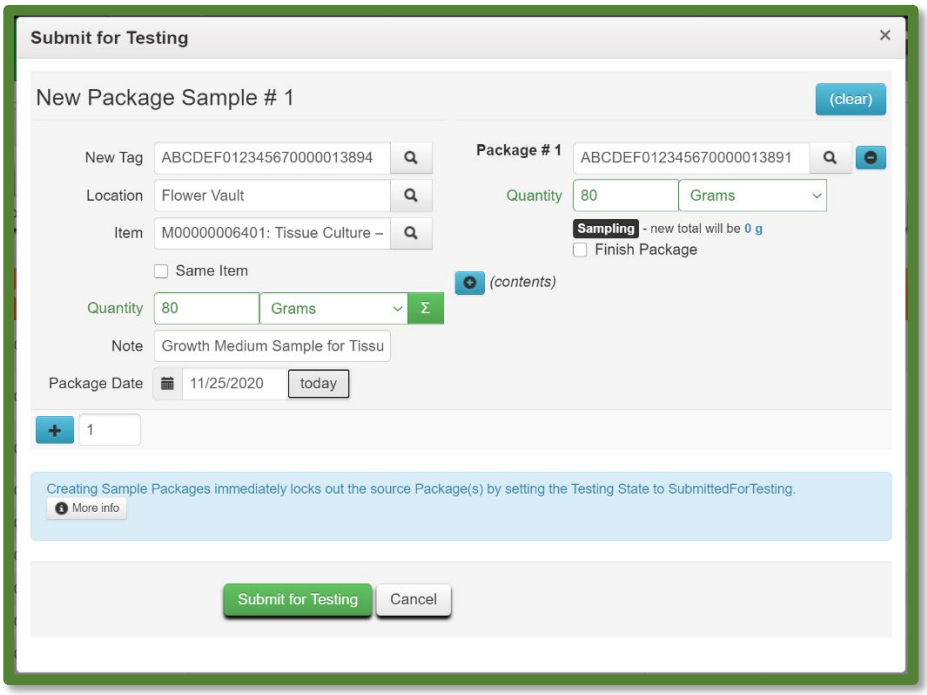

Figure 11: Create Test Sample for Growth Medium

After creating the test sample package, a transfer of the test samples will need to be created using the "Lab Transfer" transfer type to a Testing Facility. This step will remove it from the active inventory and continue testing the Tissue Cultures per the CCC requirements.

Verify Test Passed Status

To verify that the test samples created in the previous step have passed testing, view the "Lab Testing" field. If the Testing Status is "TestPassed," then the immature tissue culture plant batch can now be created. This field is shown in **Figure 12**.

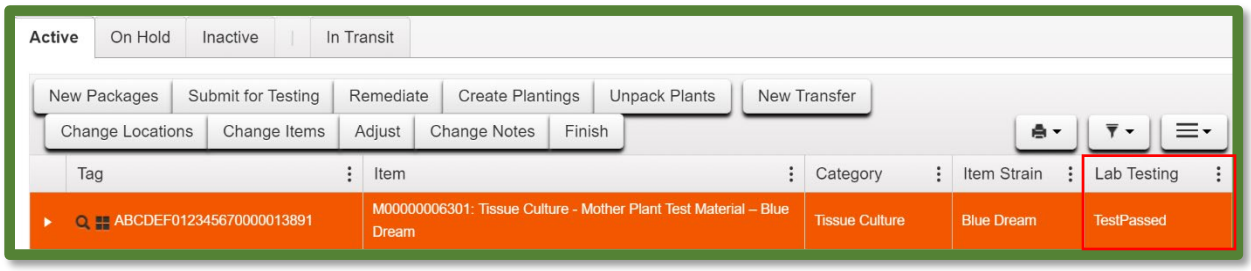

Figure 12: Verify Lab Testing Status

Create Tissue Culture Plantings from Mother Plant

Once the test results have been returned and verified as passing, the tissue culture immature plant batch from the Mother Plant is ready to be created. To do this, select the Mother Plant and use the "Create Plantings" button. This step is shown in **Figure 13**.

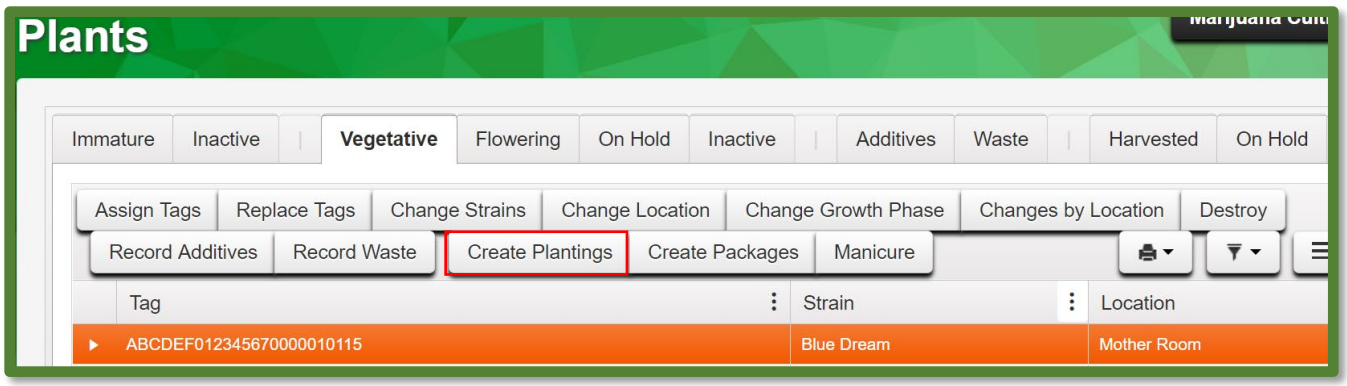

Figure 13: Select Mother Plant and Create Planting

This selection will prompt an action window to appear. Enter the required information, verify the information entered is accurate, and then select the green "Create Plantings" button to complete the step. This step is demonstrated below in **Figure 14.**

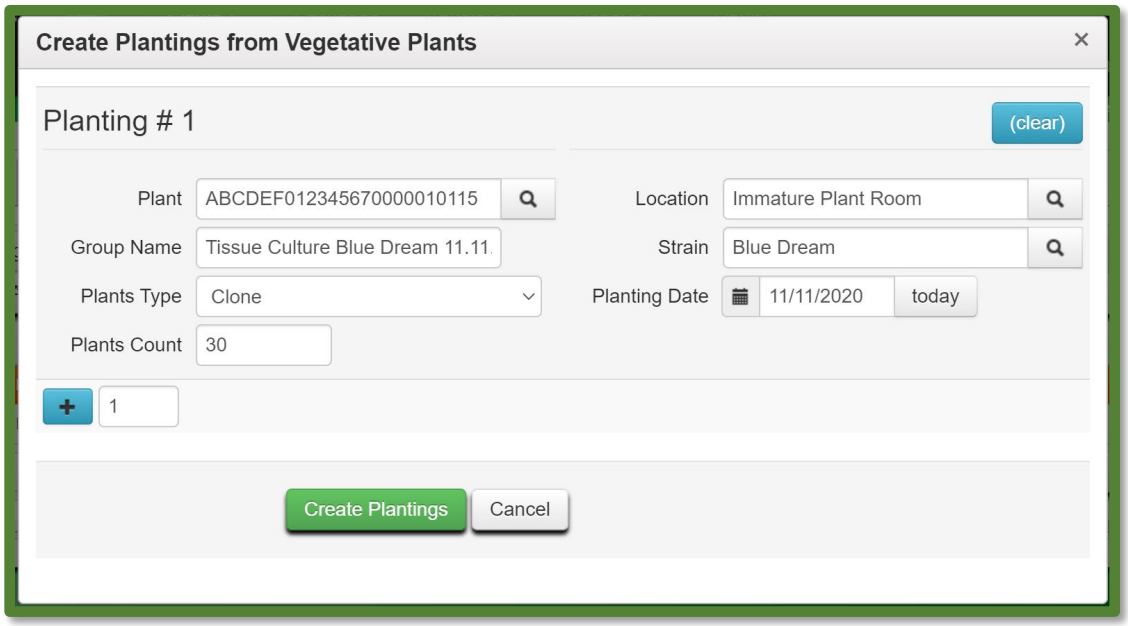

Figure 12: Create Tissue Culture Planting Action Window

Once the tissue cultures have been created in the plant inventory, they will be tracked like all other plants in Metrc. **The standard requirements for testing any flower material harvested from these plants will apply.**

Please feel free to contact Support at support@metrc.com or 877-566-6506 with any questions.