

Fungal growth:

Fungi generally grow on different substrates in nature and different media in the laboratory. Various factors affecting the fungus growth including;

1. Substrates: Natural and artificial substrates are available for the growth of fungi. Each substrate containing different nutrient compounds. Carbon and Nitrogen sources are the main fungal growth requirements. In addition to, some other minor elements are required.
2. Temperature: In general, fungi grow at optimal temperature (20- 25 °C). However, some fungi may grow at 45 °C (Thermophilic fungi) or at low temperature (Psychrophilic).
3. pH: Fungi often grow in an acidic medium with pH 5.5- 6.
4. Moisture: Is important for the spore germination and growth.

Fungal growth curve

There are four growth phases within the fungal growth pattern; Lag phase, exponential phase, stationary phase and declining phase (Fig.1). Growth rate can be measured on solid medium by means of fungal colony diameter or by the fresh/dry weight of mycelium in liquid medium.