# Theresa's List of Potential ISSR Problems

1. Shake the cocktail solution thoroughly to make sure the Taq is distributed evenly - I usually flick it for about 10-15 seconds, invert it a few times (it's usually foamy by then, and then spin it for a few seconds in a mini-centrifuge. If you do not mix the cocktail enough, some samples may amplify while others do not.

2. Do not use old solutions of primer...it will degrade over time. I usually make up a working solution from my stock solution (45 μl of TE with 5 μl of stock primer) and use it up within a week.

3. Make sure solutions used in your cocktail (i.e., dNTP's, buffer, MgCl, and primer) are all completely thawed before using. If you remove any solution from a frozen or partially frozen vial, you will change the concentration of the remaining solution (this is why I had a bunch of blank gels).

4. If you have two runs on one gel, the top samples may run slower than the bottom ones (especially if you are re-using old buffer). You will need to cut and remove the bottom run and let the top portion run a little longer.

GOOD LUCK!!!!