# Focus problems?

At NYBG, we set our cameras to MANUAL focus when shooting batches of specimens on which the camera lens has difficulty focusing automatically (e.g. Poaceae specimens).

* Switch the lens to MANUAL focus with the toggle switch on the lens (A/M)
  + You should see the EOS Utility display change to Manual Focus as well
* Press the “Live View” button on the EOS Utility
* Place a specimen sheet in the box to focus on, and place something with a little depth in the shot as well, such as a pen or a cell phone
* In the “Live View” window
  + Turn on “Depth of Field Preview”
  + Click and drag the small rectangle in the image preview over the area of the image that you want to focus on (include the object with a little depth in the rectangle)
  + Click on the magnifier below the image to zoom in
  + Focus the camera manually by turning the focus ring on the lens, first on the specimen sheet, then a little bit above the surface of the specimen sheet (hence the object)
  + Once both are acceptably sharp, close the “Live View” Window (including the magnified view)
* Take a test shot and confirm focus

Your focal length will never change. So, as long as you don’t have anything with considerable depth (greater than you test object), and as long that you never touch the lens, you should be fine. Our imagers examine the first shot they take at every session to confirm exposure, balance and focus. They then check periodically to confirm consistency.

I hope this helps.

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http://digitalphotorepro.blogspot.com/