

By comparing genomes of Phytophthora sojae and P. ramorum, rapid expansion and diversification of protein families is associated with infection, especially a superfamily of 700 proteins similar to oömycete avirulence genes, report B. M. Tyler of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and 52 associates. (Science 313:1261-1266, 2006)

A gravity model to describe spatial spread of a vector-borne plant pathogen from underlying models of insect foraging was a better fit than a mean field model or a model with only distance-dependent transmission report M. J. Ferrara and associates, Pennsylvania State University and University of Virginia. (Am. Nat. 168:294-303, 2006)

Risk from Sirococcus conigenus should be considered in plans for development of multicohort red pine stands where the pathogen is present, report J. J. Bronson and G. R. Stanosz at the University of Wisconsin. (For. Pathol. 36:271-279, 2006)

Different genes are involved in foliar and tuber resistance of potato to Phytophthora infestans, and some genes may be associated with late maturity, report I. Simko and associates at USDA-ARS, Beltsville; University of Maryland; and Pennsylvania State University. (Plant Breed. 125:385-389, 2006)

Naturally occurring heat therapy in the Tunisian Sahara, which could be useful in producing Grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3-free grape cuttings, did not occur, report A. Ben salem-Fnayou and associates at Centre de Biotechnologie de Borj-Cédria, Tunisia; and Agroscope RAC Changins, Switzerland. (J. Phytopathol. 154:528-533, 2006)

Potato tubers washed until less than 5% of tubers retained visible soil has an acceptably low risk of carrying cysts of the potato cyst nematode, report R. Gardener and associates at the Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre, Victoria, Australia. (Austral. Plant Pathol. 35:385-389, 2006)

Metals (Al, Cu, and Fe) translocated into wood did not affect oxalate accumulation, crystal production, or decay rate from brown rot fungi, report J. S. Schilling and J. Jellison at the University of Maine. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 72:5662-5665, 2006)

Root colonization of papaya and passionfruit by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi was stimulated by application of red and green algal extracts, report K. Kuwada and associates at Yamaki Co., Ltd., Okayama Gakuin University, and Kyoto Prefectural University, Japan; and Jomo Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya. (Agron. J. 98:1340-1344, 2006)

Pi-ta and Pi-b genes were incorporated into U.S. rice cultivars as sources for resistance to blast and sheath blight, report G. C. Eizenga and associates at USDA-ARS, Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, and University of Arkansas. (Crop Sci. 46:1870-1878, 2006)

Fusarium subglutinans is highly variable in production of moniliformin; this toxin may not be required for the fungus to cause corn ear rot, report A. E. Desjardins and associates, USDA-ARS, Peoria, IL. (J. Agric. Food Chem. 54:7383-7390, 2006)

Plasmid pSci6 from Spiroplasma citri confers insect transmissibility to a non-transmissible strain, a first report of phenotypic change associated with transformation of S. citri by natural plasmids, report N. Berho and associates at INRA, Université de Bordeaux, France. (Microbiology 152:2703-2716, 2006)