Focus

Wheat streak mosaic first appeared this season in Kansas on 25 April in Clark County, according to W. G. Willis of Kansas State University, Manhattan. About 20% of the plants were infected. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv., Rep. No. 5, 27 April 1984)

Moderate amounts of stripe rust of wheat were found in eastern Oregon, Washington, and Idaho this spring, which is similar to 1982 at this time, according to R. Line of Washington State University, Pullman. Stripe rust is more severe and will cause damage in southeastern Washington. (Cereal Rust Bull., Rep. No. 2, 1 May 1984)

The second crop of genetically engineered corn was harvested in February by Sungene Technologies Corp., Palo Alto, CA. Commercial genotypes that are disease-resistant and have good agronomic characters will be available in fall 1986. (Genet. Eng. News 4[3]:9, 1984)

Growth, development, and yield of corn can be reduced by heavy infestations of quackgrass allowed to grow undisturbed, according to F. L. Young, D. L. Wyse, and R. J. Jones of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Corn yields are not reduced, however, when nutrients and light are not limiting and plants are irrigated during critical periods of corn growth. (Weed Sci. 32:226-234, 1984)

A rainfall simulator has been developed by B. I. Chevone and associates at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, and Y. S. Yang of Pennsylvania State University, University Park. The simulator is designed on the principle of droplet formation from needle tips and permits examination of acidic precipitation effects on land plants. (J. Air Pollut. Control Assoc. 31:355-359, 1984)

Planting mixtures of barley genotypes reduced the effect on powdery mildew incidence, especially during the early stages of plant growth, according to K. M. Chin and M. S. Wolfe of the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, England. The overall mixture effect declined as the season progressed. (Plant Pathol. 33:89-100, 1984)

A third race of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. apii was found on celery in California by J. E. Puhalla of the University of California, Berkeley. Races 1, 2, and 3 were identified by laboratory tests, not by virulence tests. (Can. J. Bot. 62:546-550, 1984)

Phomopsis batatae, P. phaseoli, and P. sojae are considered to be one species, P. phaseoli, according to M. M. Kulik of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, MD. Also, varieties sojae and caulivora of Diaporthe phaseolorum have been eliminated. (Mycologia 76:274-291, 1984)

Fusarium tabacinum was reported for the first time as a pathogen on tomato leaves and stems in Australia by I. G. Pascoe, R. J. Nancarrow, and C. J. Copes of the Department of Agriculture, Burnley, Victoria. Doubt is expressed whether this fungus is a Fusarium. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 82:343-345, 1984)

The oak wilt fungus, Ceratocystis fagacearum, can survive in air-dried lumber for 20 weeks, according to F. H. Tainter of Clemson University, SC, and W. L. MacDonald and E. J. Harner of West Virginia University, Morgantown. Wood moisture content of 20% or less is needed to ensure nonsurvival of the wilt fungus. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 14:9-16, 1984)