

Focus

Seed treatments that included benomyl in acetone (2.5%, w/v) with 20% household bleach (1% sodium hypochlorite) were superior to other treatments in eliminating bacteria and fungi from asparagus seed without decreasing seed germination, report W. H. Elmer and C. T. Stephens of Michigan State University, East Lansing. (HortScience 23:1031-1032, 1988)

Conidia of Erysiphe graminis landing on a solid surface release esterase, report R. L. Nicholson and associates at Purdue University, Indiana, and Mie University, Japan. This event precedes cuticular degeneration and preparation of the infection court. (Exp. Mycol. 12:336-349, 1988)

Few commercial corn hybrids are resistant to the root-knot nematode, but G. L. Windham and W. P. Williams, USDA and Mississippi State University, have identified some resistant inbreds. (Ann. Appl. Nematol. 2:25-28, 1988)

At least three genes control resistance of wheat to common root rot caused by Cochliobolus sativus, according to K. L. Bailey, D. R. Knott, and H. Harding of the University of Saskatchewan and Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 10:207-214, 1988)

Vanadate applied to soybean cotyledons results in hyperpolarization that leads to the induction of phytoalexin synthesis, report M. G. Mayer and E. Ziegler of the Institute of Biology, Aachen, West Germany. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 33:397-407, 1988)

Conifer seedlings grown in Styroblock containers were healthier in polyethylene than in fiberglass greenhouses because of greater solar irradiance, making plants less susceptible to Botrytis cinerea, report S. E. Tuller of the University of Victoria and M. J. Peterson of AFC Research, Sidney, Canada. (Agric. For. Meteorol. 44:49-65, 1988)

Of two strains of Agrobacterium tumefaciens having biocontrol potential for crown gall, strain K84 colonized tomato root surfaces longer than did strain J73. This difference was due to an inherent strain property, and not to fibril formation, report S. Macrae, J. A. Thomson, and J. van Staden of CSIR, the University of Natal, and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 54:3133-3137, 1988)

Removal of husks from corn ears 15 days after pollination decreased grain yield 18%, report R. J. Salvador and R. B. Pearce of Iowa State University, Ames. Husks maintain moisture and temperature for remobilizable assimilates, and loss of this effect when husks are removed is more important than loss in photosynthetic area. (Crop Sci. 28:961-964, 1988)

Prior infection of peanut with peanut green mosaic virus increased host susceptibility to early and late leaf spot diseases, report D. V. R. S. Gopal and P. Sreenivasulu of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, India. Carbendazim controlled leaf spots in plants whether infected with virus or not. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 95:551-553, 1988)

Phosphite, an active breakdown product of fosetyl-Al in plants, does not affect Phytophthora cryptogea in cowpea directly but does influence host defense reactions, report P. Saindrenan of the University of Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris. (Plant Sci. 58:245-252, 1988)