## **Focus**

Erwinia amylovora produces harpin that elicits the hypersensitive response in pear and apple, according to Zhong-Min Wei and associates at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. The gene encoding harpin is in the 40-kb hrp gene cluster of E. amylovora. (Science 257:85-88, 1992)

The presence of distinct varieties of Acremonium typhinum may account for diversities in ecology, physiology, and morphology of isolates in epiphyte-host associations in grasses, reports J. F. White, Jr., Auburn University, Montgomery, Alabama. (Mycologia 84:431-441, 1992)

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays are unreliable in predicting amounts of barley yellow dwarf viruses purified from oats, report J. F. Murphy and C. J. D'Arcy of the University of Illinois, Urbana. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 13:332-335, 1991)

A lectin-carbohydrate interaction leads to adhesion of nematodes to Arthrobotrys oligospora, the first step in infection of the nematodes, according to A. Tunlid and associates at Lund University, Sweden. (Mycol. Res. 96:401-412, 1992)

Snow cover, microclimate, soil structure, and nutrient availability are factors in mortality of three pine species caused by Gremmeniella abietina between ridges (in contrast to on ridges) after plowing or ditching, report F. Roll-Hansen and associates at the Norwegian Forest Research Institute, As, Norway. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 22:77-94, 1992)

Yield losses are substantial when Exserohilum turcicum infects and defoliates the middle to top third of the leaf canopy in sweet corn but significantly less when the lower third is affected, report S. Solomonovitz and associates of Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, and the University of Illinois, Urbana. (Phytoparasitica 20:113-121, 1992)

Inoculation of lodgepole pine seeds with Bacillus polymyxa increased seedling biomass significantly after 8 weeks as bacteria became established in the rhizosphere, report F. B. Holl and C. P. Chanway of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. (Can. J. Microbiol. 38:303-308, 1992)

Proper timing of irrigation immediately before or after harvest of alfalfa can reduce parasitism by Ditylenchus dipsaci, increase plant persistence, and reduce the nematode-Fusarium wilt complex, reports G. D. Griffin of the USDA and Utah State University, Logan. (J. Nematol. 24:315-320, 1992)

Penicillium janthinellum, a natural colonizer of pine bark container medium, can control Phytophthora root rot of azalea, according to B. H. Ownley and D. M. Benson of North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 117:407-410, 1992)

An integrated control program for producing alfalfa in soils infested with Pratylenchus penetrans in the north central United States includes delaying seeding until about 1 July, planting in soil fallowed for about 8 weeks, treating soil with carbofuran just before seeding, and planting resistant cultivars, according to J. A. Thies and associates of the USDA and University of Minnesota, St. Paul. (Crop Sci. 32:786-792, 1992)

Fluorescent pseudomonads reduced the incidence of potato ring rot by 23-27% after 5-8 weeks, according to A. R. De La Cruz and associates at the University of Idaho, Moscow. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 58:1986-1991, 1992)