## Focus Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Blue-green algae that fix nitrogen occur in acid sandy soils of north central Florida, and algal populations increased with applications of lime and fertilizer, according to B. L. Sukala and J. S. Davis of the University of Florida, Gainesville. (Nova Hedwigia 59:33-46, 1994)

Alternaria capsici-annui is reported for the first time by K. S. Bilgrami and associates at Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur, India, to produce mycotoxins, and new records are given for <u>A. citri</u>, <u>A. porri</u>, <u>A. radicina</u>, <u>A. tenuissima</u>, and A. tomato. (Mycotoxin Res. 10:56-59, 1994)

Simple spraying of wheat spikes with a conidial suspension of Fusarium graminearum was as good as injecting spikelets with inoculum to evaluate resistance of cultivars to head blight, according to K. K. Nkongolo and associates at the University of Laval, Quebec, and Agriculture Canada, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 16:37-42, 1994)

The cloning of an arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus, Scutellospora castanea, for its genomic DNA and its use to probe roots for fungal tissue was reported for the first time by A. Zézé and associates at INRA, in Dijon Cédex, France. (Mycorrhiza 4:251-254, 1994)

Pratylenchus neglectus can restrict populations of Meloidogyne chitwoodi on barley roots by reducing egg production and inhibiting penetration of roots, report K. C. Umesh and associates at the University of California, Davis. (J. Nematol. 26:286-295, 1994)

<u>Xanthomonas campestris</u> pv. <u>raphani</u> is a new bacterial spot of crucifers in Japan, report K. Tamura and associates at Shizuoka University, Shizuoka, Japan. It was also pathogenic to cucumber, pumpkin, physalis, and tomato. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 60:281-287, 1994)

A uninucleate Rhizoctonia species having a Ceratobasidium teleomorph is described by A. M. Hietala and associates at the Finnish Forest Research Institute in Vantaa as a pathogen of nursery-grown conifer seedlings. (Mycol. Res. 98:1044-1050, 1994)

Soybean bud blight caused by tobacco streak virus was always more severe in early crops than in late crops when 14 epidemics were analyzed for two cultivars, report A. M. L. Almeida and associates at the National Soybean Research Center at Londrina, Brazil, and the ESALQ Plant Pathology Department at Piracicaba, Brazil. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 101:386-392, 1994)

Winter wheat declines in resistance to pink snow mold from sowing to early spring and the change is associated with duration of snow cover, freezing damage, and smothering by ice, according to T. Nakajima of the Tohoku National Agricultural Experiment Station in Iwate, and J. Abe at the Hokkaido National Agricultural Experiment Station in Sapporo, Japan. (Can. J. Bot. 72:1211-1215, 1994)

Cultures of Fusarium oxysporum that cause cotton wilt isolated from sandy soil yielded 80% of high sporulating types but were less parasitic than the cultures producing few conidia, report S. N. Smith and associates at the University of California, Davis. (Mycologia 86:547-554, 1994)

Double cropping of cucumbers with a nematode-resistant tomato cultivar and establishing cucumbers from transplants are effective as an alternative to soil treatment with nematicides for growing cucumbers in root-knot-nematode-infested soil, report H. Y. Hanna and associates at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center in Bossier City. (HortScience 29:1136-1138, 1994)