Focus

Systemic infection by Ustilago cynodontis prevented production of seed and dry matter, growth rate of stolons, and survival of Cynodon dactylon, report G. García-Guzmán and J. J. Burdon of Australian National University and CSIRO, Canberra, Australia. (Am. J. Bot. 84:1565-1571, 1997)

Potato plants expressing the potato leaf roll virus coat protein cDNA or derived through somaclonal variation can confer field resistance to the virus and reduce tuber disease symptoms, according to L. M. Kawchuk and associates at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, Alberta, and the USDA at Corvallis, Oregon. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 19:260-266, 1997)

The amount of rain during the entire 14 days before harvest was more highly correlated with cuticle cracking incidence in tomato than the amount of rain during the entire growing season, or during 1 to 7 or 8 to 14 days before harvest, according to C. L. W. Emmons and J. W. Scott at the University of Florida, Bradenton. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 122:797-801, 1997)

Seed treatment of crops with bacterial endophytes appears to be an inexpensive, rapid, economically practical, and reliable method to promote plant growth and control disease, report J. Hallmann and associates at the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn, Alabama. (Can. J. Microbiol. 43:895-914, 1997)

Two microsatellites that flank the major locus for resistance of soybean to the cyst nematode are located on the molecular linkage group G, which controls more than 50% of the variation in resistance, according to J. Mudge and associates at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, and the University of Maryland, College Park. (Crop Sci. 37:1611-1615, 1997)

Cryptococcus humicola completely inhibited lesion development caused by Botrytis cinerea in apples at all three harvest times, except for day 7 of the third harvest, report J. A. Anderson and associates at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. (HortScience 32:1235-1236, 1997)

Leaf yellowing in barley seedlings was influenced by irradiance, photo quality, and CO_2 enrichment, and is not premature senescence, reports R. C. Sicher of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. (Int. J. Plant Sci. 158:602-607, 1997)

The main effect of nitrogen deposition on the coniferous forests of northern Europe is on species composition of mycorrhizal fungi and the main effect of nitrogen fertilization is a decrease in the standing biomass of mycorrhizae, report O. Kårén and J.-E. Nylund of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala. (Can. J. Bot. 75:1628-1642, 1997)

By injection of chicken hens with endospores of Pasteuria penetrans, antibodies can be produced and fractionated; specific fractions are then attached to the bacterial host, which is a parasite on root-knot nematodes, report S. Y. Chen and associates at the University of Florida, Gainesville. (J. Nematol. 29:268-275, 1997)

Two smut genera (Protomycopsis and Entyloma) that cause bean angular leaf spot have been combined in a new genus, Erratomyces, by M. Piepenbring and R. Bauer of the University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany. (Mycologia 89:924-936, 1997)

Tobacco leaf curl virus causes yellow vein mosaic on Lonicera japonica and this wild plant is a reservoir of virus for nearby tomato crops, report A. Sharma and associates at Tokyo University of Agriculture in Tokyo, the University of Osaka in Sakai, and Kyushi University in Fukuoka, Japan. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 63: 298-303, 1997)