

# **Focus**

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

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Plant activator BION (disease resistance inducer) applied to soil reduced barley root growth and increased root infection by Pratylenchus but did not affect soil biota or infection by mycorrhizae, report I. Sonneman and associates at Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen, Germany. (Appl. Soil Ecol. 21:179-185, 2002)

Treating canola seeds with Pseudomonas putida producing indoleacetic acid (IAA) resulted in seedling primary roots averaging 35 to 50% longer than roots from nontreated seeds or seeds treated with IAA-deficient mutants, report C. L. Patten and B. R. Glick of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 68:3795-3801, 2002)

Ceratocystis polonica can render the outer sapwood of mature Norway spruce trees dysfunctional within 4-6 weeks after inoculation, report T. Kirisits and I. Offenthaler from the Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Vienna, Austria. (Plant Pathol. 51:359-364, 2002)

The host plant facilitates Plasmopara viticola on grape by accelerating zoospore release, coordinating germ tube morphogenesis, and guiding zoospores to stomata by factors affecting stomatal closure according to B. Kiefer and associates at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, and Staatliches Weinbauinstitut, Freiburg, Germany. (Planta 215:387-393, 2002)

Compost of manure and straw reduced severity of Fusarium wilt in sweet basil and enhanced plant growth compared to peat moss as a growth medium according to R. Reuveni and associates at Newe Ya'ar Research Center at Ramat Yishay, and the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. (Crop Prot. 21:583-587, 2002)

Strains of Burkholderia cepacia that produce pyrrolnitrin suppress stem rot in poinsettia according to J. Hwang and associates at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (Biol. Control 25:56-63, 2002)

Zucchini yellows mosaic virus is transmitted by seeds (1-5%) of Cucurbita pepo var. styriaca according to M. Riedle-Bauer and associates at the Federal Office and Research Centre for Agriculture, Vienna, Austria. The role of weeds is negligible. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 109:200-206, 2002)

Endopolygalacturonase encoded by ccpg1 and ccpg2 is a pathogenicity factor of Claviceps purpurea on rye, report B. Oeser and associates at Wertfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany. (Fungic. Genet. Biol. 36:175-186, 2002)

To measure ice-nucleation, tobacco seeds (with inaZ gene from Pseudomonas syringae) were put in microtitre plate wells on agar, then 2-leaf-stage plants were exposed to -9°C, or leaf disks were put in microtitre plate wells of water, report E. Anastassopoulos and N. J. Panopoulos of the University of Crete and the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, in Crete, Greece. (J. Exp. Bot. 53:1887-1890, 2002)

Yellows disease symptoms in tomato induced by phytoplasma were less severe when plants harbored arbuscular mycorrhizae according to G. Lingua and associates at Università del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro", Alessandria, and Istituto di Virologia Vegetale del CNR, Turin, Italy. (Mycorrhiza 12:191-198, 2002)

Grapevine fanleaf virus replicates in host endoplasmic reticulum-derived membranes and depends on lipid synthesis, report C. Ritzenthaler and associates at the Institut de Biologie Moléculaire des Plantes, Strasbourg, France. (J. Virol. 76:8808-8819, 2002)