

Focus

A peach yellow leafroll (PYLR) epidemic of unusual intensity occurred in three California counties in 1979, and all heavily infected peach orchards were near commercial pear orchards, report G. Nyland, B. C. Raju, and A. H. Purcell of the University of California, Davis and Berkeley. PYLR was diagnosed in over 35,000 trees, and no cultivar was resistant. (APS Pacific Division Meeting, June 1980)

A biological agent for control of Rhizoctonia solani and Pythium spp., previously identified tentatively as Corticium sensu lato, is now identified as Laetisaria arvalis by H. H. Burdsall, Jr., of the USDA Forest Service in Madison, H. C. Hoch of Cornell University, M. G. Boosalis of the University of Nebraska, and E. C. Setliff of the State University of New York at Syracuse. The soil basidiomycete, described from cultures as a new species, is a hyperparasite of R. solani, which causes root rot of sugar beets. (Mycologia Vol. 72, No. 4, 1980)

Maize white line mosaic was found in Wisconsin for the first time in 1979 in dent and sweet corn, report C. R. Grau and colleagues at the University of Wisconsin. Serologic tests, particle morphology, and symptoms indicate the disease is the same as that found in New York, Ohio, and Vermont. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 26 August 1980)

Ice nucleation by isolates of Pseudomonas syringae may play an important role in bacterial canker of peach, according to D. J. Weaver of the USDA/SEA, Kearneysville, WV, and C. F. Gonzales and H. English of the University of California, Davis. Typical cankers were induced on active and dormant peach tissue by isolates from peach and almond that were positive for syringomycin production and ice nucleation. (APS Pacific Division Meeting, June 1980)

Septoria leaf spot (Septoria apiicola), which severely affects celery in California during wet seasons, was controlled with Ciba-Geigy 64251 or 64250, benomyl plus chlorothalonil or anilazine, or alternate sprays of benomyl-chlorothalonil-benomyl during 3 yr of trials by A. O. Paulus, H. Otto, and J. Nelson of the University of California, Riverside. Chlorothalonil or anilazine alone gave intermediate control. (APS Pacific Division Meeting, June 1980)

A new race of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. apii is responsible for a recurrence of Fusarium yellows of celery in California, according to R. W. Schneider and J. L. Norelli of the University of California, Berkeley. Race 1 attacks cultivars Golden Hook and Fordhook but not Tall Utah 52-70, whereas race 2 (the new race) attacks all three. (APS Pacific Division Meeting, June 1980)

Cercosporin, produced by mycelia of Cercospora beticola and C. nicotianae, appears to act as a photosensitizing agent in plants, reports M. E. Daub of Michigan State University. Photosensitization may be an important mechanism of pathogenesis for these species. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 25 August 1980)

In trials in four states, tricyclazole applied as a foliar treatment controlled rice blast as well as or better than the currently registered fungicide, according to K. R. Burnside, J. L. Pafford, and J. D. Froyd of Lilly Research Laboratories. Also, yields were higher and milling quality was better with tricyclazole than with the reference fungicide and untreated control. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 25 August 1980)

Oxalic acid is produced by Sclerotium cepivorum in culture and in infected--but not in healthy--onion tissue, report H. E. Stone and V. N. Armentrout of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. (APS Pacific Division Meeting, June 1980)