Focus

Outstanding control of early and late blight of potatoes was achieved by foliar applications of Ridomil combined with CGA 64250, reports H. S. Potter of Michigan State University. Performance with 7- and 14-day schedules did not differ significantly, and no phytotoxic responses were found for CGA 64250. (Fungic. Nematic. Tests Vol. 36, 1981)

A special local need registration has been issued for use of Galltrol, a product of AgBioChem, Inc., on apples and pears in California, Michigan, Ohio, and New York. The nonpathogenic strain of Agrobacterium tumefaciens prevents crown gall through ecological exclusion. (Agrichem. Age Vol. 25, No. 4, 1981)

Witches' broom of black raspberry found in Oregon was reported as a disease new to the United States by R. H. Converse of the USDA/AR in Corvallis. Infected plants lose apical dominance, leading to stem proliferation and some dwarfing and chlorosis. The disease resembles European Rubus stunt disease, and mycoplasmalike organisms have been seen in infected tissues. Control seems possible by roguing infected plants and by reducing leafhopper vector populations with insecticides. (USDA/APHIS New Pest Work Group Report, March 1981)

A phytotoxin from quackgrass rhizomes that inhibits seedling root growth in corn, oats, cucumber, and alfalfa was isolated and purified by W. E. Gabor and C. Veatch of West Virginia University, Morgantown. The compound was tentatively identified as a glycoside with a molecular weight of 460. (Weed Sci. Vol. 29, No. 2, 1981)

Aflatoxin was found in 187 of 238 corn samples collected in 1977 from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of North Carolina, according to C. W. Hasseltine, R. F. Rogers, and O. L. Shotwell of the Northern Regional Research Center (USDA), Peoria, IL. Aflatoxin concentration was above the 20 ppb guideline in 139 of the samples. The concentration increased as the incidence of corn damaged by insects and infected with Aspergillus flavus rose. (Mycologia Vol. 73, No. 2, 1981)

Head smut of sweet corn caused by Sphacelotheca reiliana was controlled by in-furrow applications of CGA 64250 (spray or granules) or Baytan (spray) or by seed treatment with Baytan (12.8 fl oz/cwt seed), report P. A. Koepsell and J. R. Bagget of Oregon State University, Corvallis. The highest rates of CGA 64250 caused some leaf twisting. (Fungic. Nematic. Tests Vol. 36, 1981)

A severe outbreak of rice blast disease caused by Pyricularia oryzae was reported in Bangladesh in 1980 by S. A. Miah, A. K. M. Shahjahan, and M. A. Haque of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Joydebpur, Dacca. Disease incidence had been low since 1968, but environmental factors and monoculture of rice favored an epidemic in 1980. Also, introduction of new races was suspected. (Int. Rice Res. Newsl. Vol. 5, No. 6, 1980)

Blackleg of sugar beets may be caused by Fusarium spp. and other fungi (Aphanomyces cochlioides and Pythium spp.) involved in secondary root disease, according to I. Böttcher and L. Behr of Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg. A causal relationship was postulated between secondary root disease and subsequent yield loss. (Arch. Phytopathol. Pflanzenschutz Vol. 6, No. 16, 1980)

Application of Trichoderma harzianum mycelia and spores in the field decreased incidence of onion white rot caused by Sclerotium cepivorum, report T. H. Abd-El-Moity and M. N. Shatla of Manoufeia University, Egypt. Histologic examination showed that S. cepivorum sclerotia were destroyed and replaced by T. harzianum spores and mycelia. (Phytopathol. Z. Vol. 100, No. 1, 1981)