

Sources of resistance in chickpea to the wilt fungus have already been identified (8). To achieve durability of resistance to *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri*, researchers should conduct detailed studies of pathogen survival and should develop methods for reducing inoculum levels in the soil.

Soilborne pathogens specific to a few hosts survive in soil either in the debris of their specific hosts or of symptomless carriers. *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri* is pathogenic only to *Cicer* spp., but in our study it also colonized roots of lentil, pea, and pigeonpea. These three species are considered symptomless carriers because the pathogen was isolated from their roots, colonization of their roots by *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri* could be artificially demonstrated, and no symptoms were seen on the three species. This information can be useful in planning crop rotations involving chickpea. Planting crops that do not

allow colonization by *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri* in rotation with chickpea is expected to reduce the inoculum level in the soil.

The chickpea wilt *Fusarium* is internally seedborne (4). We did not check the seeds of lentil, pea, or pigeonpea for seed transmission because we found that *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *ciceri* was confined to their root systems.

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