

Focus

Wheat stem rust has been more widespread in the United States this year than during any of the past 5 yr, probably because of delayed winter wheat maturity and above-normal rainfall. Little loss is expected, however, except where susceptible cultivars are late in maturing. The most frequently isolated race has been TNM-15. (Cereal Rust Bull., Rep. No. 7, 26 July 1983)

Summer cover crops of sorghum-sudangrass, sesbania, or grassy weeds maintain or build up populations of sting and root-knot nematodes injurious to subsequent vegetable crops, according to H. L. Rhoades of the University of Florida, Sanford. Fenamiphos greatly increased yields of cabbage, cucumber, and snap beans after cover crops had augmented nematode populations. (Nematropica 13:9-16, 1983)

Selective media for isolating either Fusarium or Trichoderma spp. from soil were developed by Y. Elad and I. Chet of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel. Addition of benomyl favors Fusarium spp. and addition of captan favors Trichoderma spp. (Phytoparasitica 11:55-58, 1983)

Triadimefon, biloxazol, and fenarimol effectively controlled powdery mildew of cucumber in greenhouse trials, report G. Cartia and M. Riva of the University of Catania, Italy. The fungicides were applied to 2-mo-old plants, and applications were repeated every 12 days. (Inf. Fitopatol. 33:61-63, 1983)

Septoria leaf blotch of wheat and powdery mildew of barley are controlled as well by the antitranspirants Wilt-Pruf and Vapor Gard as by the fungicide Tilt (propiconazol), according to O. Ziv of the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. The polymers coat the epidermis and reduce water loss. (Phytoparasitica 11:33-38, 1983)

Phoma eupyrena and P. exigua were both found in stored potato tubers in a 3-yr survey by C. Janke and A. Zott of Humboldt University, Berlin. Both species were pathogenic to tubers. (Arch. Phytopathol. Pflanzenschutz 19:115-119, 1983)

A band of dry wood with high electrical resistance separates living sapwood from infected wetwood and from discolored, decaying wood of balsam fir, according to W. C. Shortle and A. Ostrofsky of the U.S. Forest Service, Durham, NH. Under severe stress, this high electrical resistance disappears, and trees lose ability to compartmentalize internal infections. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 13:1-11, 1983)

Forty-one of 222 isolates of Phytophthora infestans from potato appeared to be resistant to metalaxyl, report L. C. Davidse, D. L. Danial, and C. J. van Westen of Agricultural University, Wageningen, Netherlands. Infected seed potatoes apparently carried predominantly metalaxyl-sensitive strains into most fields. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 89:1-20, 1983)

Perithecia of Fusarium nivale from cereals, but not grasses, developed in culture on cereal straw, reports J. D. Smith of Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon, Sask. Isolates from cereals and grasses were pathogenic to rye. Grass isolates may have lost ability to produce perithecia. (Can. Plant Dis. Surv. 63:25-26, 1983)

Pseudomonas syringae introduced into the intercellular spaces associated with water uptake (apoplast) in roots and stems of American elm seedlings suppressed development of vascular discoloration but did not eradicate the causal agent of Dutch elm disease, according to D. F. Myers and G. A. Strobel of Montana State University, Bozeman. Antimycotic strains suppressed discoloration more effectively than did strains not producing antimycotics in culture. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 80:389-394, 1983)