

# Focus

---

Wheat leaf rust severities and losses were less in 1984 than in 1983 in most areas of the United States. Rust was more severe than usual in some wheats in Texas, California, and the Pacific Northwest but less severe in the central wheat areas. (Cereal Rust Bull. [St. Paul] 8 August 1984)

A new species, Hyalothyridium maydis, was described as a cause of leaf spot of corn in Latin America by F. M. Latterell and A. E. Rossi of the USDA-ARS, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD. This leaf spot occurs in humid areas at high and low altitudes. (Mycologia 76:506-514, 1984)

Breeding strategies utilizing somaclonal and gametoclonal variations in tomatoes reduce time for development of cultivars and permit access to new classes of variation, according to D. A. Evans, W. R. Sharp, and H. P. Medina-Filho of DNA Plant Technology Corp., Cinnaminson, NJ. (Am. J. Bot. 71:759-774, 1984)

Aspergillus flavus enters cotton seed by way of the nectaries at or near anthesis, report M. A. Klich of the Southern Regional Research Center, USDA, New Orleans; S. H. Thomas of New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; and J. E. Mellon, USDA, New Orleans. (Mycologia 76:665-669, 1984)

Leaf rust of wheat occurred earlier and was more severe in 1983 than in previous years in Czechoslovakia, but yield losses were less than 10%, according to P. Bartos, E. Stuchlikova, and R. Kubova of the Research Institute of Crop Production, Praha-Ruzyne. Races 61, 14, and 63 predominated. (Cereal Rust Bull. 12:[Pt 1]40-41, 1984)

Many fungi are present in newly formed cysts of Globodera rostochiensis in Newfoundland, and some appear to parasitize the eggs, report C. J. Clovis and R. A. Nolan of Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's. Effectiveness of fungi in biocontrol was not established. (Nematologica 29:346-356, 1984)

The infectious and viral nature of the severe necrosis disease of greenhouse-grown cucumbers was demonstrated by L. Bos, H. Huttinga, and D. Z. Maat of the Research Institute for Plant Protection, Wageningen, and H. J. M. Van Dorst of the Glasshouse Crops Research and Experiment Station, Zuidweg, Netherlands. Cucumber, melon, and watermelon are susceptible. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 90:55-69, 1984)

Metalaxyl greatly reduced the incidences of root dieback and cavity spot in field-grown carrots, according to A. J. Lyshol of the Ministry of Agriculture in Stavanger, L. Semb of the Norwegian Plant Protection Institute in Ås, and G. Taksdal of the Saerheim Agricultural Research Station, Norway. (Plant Pathol. 33:193-198, 1984)

Pretreating tomato and eggplant seedlings with some dinitroaniline herbicides increased resistance to vascular wilts caused by Fusarium and Verticillium spp., report A. Grinstein, N. Lisker, J. Katan, and Y. Eshel of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel. (Physiol. Plant Pathol. 24:347-356, 1984)

An excised root culture inoculation technique is a simple, rapid, accurate way to evaluate resistance to root-knot nematodes in tomato, report D. Orion and M. Pilowsky of Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. (Phytoparasitica 12:71-73, 1984)

Benomyl-resistant types of snow mold fungus (Gerlachia nivalis) occurred in fields treated in the fall with benzimidazole compounds, reports H. Olvång of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala. He recommends using the compounds only to control snow mold. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Pflanzenschutz 91:294-300, 1984)