

Focus

Wheat leaf rust was severe in early April in south and central Texas, where 10% losses are possible. Leaf rust is also reported from north Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kansas. Races UN 2, UN 5, UN 17, and UN 6 were identified from Texas. (Cereal Rust Bull., Rep. No. 1, 9 April 1985)

Prevalence of gray leaf spot of corn increased during the past decade in eastern United States, much of it associated with no-till cropping, according to E. L. Stromberg of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. Seven of 19 commercial hybrids tested proved resistant in 1984. (APS Potomac Division Meeting, March 1985)

The Asian Vegetable Research & Development Center in Tainan, Taiwan, is making available small, virus-free sweet potato roots for international testing. In this method, developed by G. Kuo, virus-free plantlets are grown from meristem-tip culture in sterile soil, free from insects. (Centerpoint 3[6]:1,4, 1984)

Xylem-tapping mistletoes may acquire nitrogen as well as water, according to J. R. Ehleringer of the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and colleagues from West Germany and Australia. This parasitism for nutrients may explain the high transpiration rates in these mistletoes. (Science 227:1479-1481, 1985)

Rootstock and soil type influenced populations of Pratylenchus penetrans on feeder roots of apple, according to J. F. Costante and R. M. Klein of the University of Vermont, Burlington, and W. F. Mai of Cornell University, Ithaca. Nematode populations increased with soil depth but were not affected by soil pH, organic matter, root conditions, tree vigor, herbicides, or replant status. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. 110:38-41, 1985)

Zearalenone was abundant in discolored tissue of Fusarium-infected cornstalks in the fields of southern Italy, report A. Bottalico and associates of the University of Bari and the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Of nine Fusarium species isolated, only F. culmorum and F. equiseti produced the toxin. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 49:547-551, 1985)

A second dominant gene for resistance to peanut mottle virus in soybeans has been reported by G. R. Buss, C. W. Roane, S. A. Tolin, and T. A. Vinardi of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. (Crop Sci. 25:314-316, 1985)

Increasing exposure of soybeans to ozone decreased pod number per plant and seed weights, report M. H. Unsworth, V. M. Lesser, and A. S. Heagle of North Carolina State University, Raleigh. Open-top chambers were used in the study. (J. Appl. Ecol. 21:1059-1079, 1984)

The scanning property of a television camera was used by G. A. Pieters of the Laboratory of Plant Physiological Research, Wageningen, Netherlands, to measure leaf area, in an assimilation chamber or on detached leaves. The accuracy was better than 2% of the reference area. (Photosynthetica 18:454-458, 1984).

Etaconazole, a sterol-inhibitor, sprayed on apple trees controlled powdery mildew and increased yields but shortened internodes and reduced leaf size, report T. R. Roper, D. J. Weber, and W. R. Andersen of Brigham Young University, Provo, UT. Benomyl, not a sterol-inhibitor, had no effect on growth but was less effective. (J. Hortic. Sci. 60:29-32, 1985)

Meloidogyne incognita densities greater than 250 eggs and juveniles per 500 cc of soil reduced onion yields significantly, report J. N. Corgan and associates of New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. (HortScience 20:134-135, 1985)