

Focus

Wheat streak mosaic, leaf rust, and speckled leaf blotch have appeared on winter wheat in Kansas this spring, reports T. Sim IV of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep. 3, 21 March 1986)

Seedborne microorganisms may act as a barrier to potential velvetleaf seed pathogens to supplement seed dormancy and contribute to longevity of weed seeds in soil, according to R. J. Kremer of the USDA and University of Missouri, Columbia. (Weed Sci. 34:233-236, 1986)

Variants of brome mosaic virus (BMV) RNA3 were constructed in which the coat gene was removed or replaced with sequences encoding chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, report R. French, M. Janda, and P. Ahlquist of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. When protoplasts were inoculated with transcripts of BMV RNAs 1, 2, and 3, all three derivatives were replicated and produced subgenomic RNAs analogous to normal subgenomic coat protein messenger RNA. (Science 231:1294-1297, 1986)

Fusarium udum, the cause of pigeon pea wilt, is parasitic to Rhizopus nigricans, Cunninghamella echinulata, Aspergillus luchuensis, Mortierella subtilissima, and Syncephalastrum racemosum and may have a role as a mycoparasite of root pathogens, according to R. S. Upadhyay, B. Rai, and R. C. Gupta of Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. (Acta Mycol. 19:115-119, 1983)

Fifty-nine of the 169 strains of Aspergillus flavus reference cultures maintained in the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) produced aflatoxins, report D. Wei and S. Jong of the ATCC, Rockville, MD. Most strains maintained their original toxin-producing ability after freeze-drying and subsequent long-term storage. (Mycopathologia 93:19-24, 1986)

Cucumber green mosaic virus, tomato mosaic virus, tobacco necrosis virus, and lettuce big vein agent spread in a recirculating water supply in soilless cultures, reports N. Paludan of the Institute of Plant Pathology, Lyngby, Denmark. Addition of the surfactant Teepol to the circulating water decreased but did not eliminate lettuce big vein agent. (Phytoparasitica 13:276, 1985)

A haustorial development test devised by J. Herzog and H. Schüepp evaluates metalaxyl resistance and genetic variability in Plasmopara viticola of grape. In selected mildew isolates, three types of sensitivity could be distinguished and the precise ratio of sensitive, reduced sensitive, and resistant zoospores could be determined. (Bull. OEPP 15:431-435, 1985)

Spines and stems of Ulex species yielded 339 endophytic fungi, according to P. J. Fisher, A. E. Anson, and O. Petrini of the University of Exeter, England, and the Microbiologisches Institut in Zurich, Switzerland. Colonization tended to increase with advancing age of host tissue and may hasten onset of senescence. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 86:153-193, 1986)

A medium selective for low populations of Thielaviopsis basicola in tobacco field soils, developed by L. P. Specht and G. J. Griffin of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, contains etridiazol and nystatin as inhibitors and unautoclaved carrot extract for enhancement. (Can. J. Bot. 7:438-441, 1985)

Severe leaf and stem necrosis of melon grown in plastic greenhouses in Crete was identified as melon necrotic spot virus by A. Avgelis of the Plant Protection Institute in Crete. The cultivar Galia was susceptible and may have been responsible for introducing the virus to Crete. (Phytopathol. Z. 114:365-372, 1985)