

Focus

Leaf rust has appeared on winter wheat in trace amounts over most of Kansas and speckled leaf blotch is found in most fields, reports T. Sim IV of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep. 6, 24 April 1987)

A method for washing roots to collect mycelium and sporocarps of Glomus monosporum has been devised by J. P. San Antonio of the USDA Horticultural Science Institute, Beltsville, MD. A pot culture of intact root-soil mass is encased in nylon netting and attached to a wrist-action shaker so that the root mass is suspended in a vessel of water. (Mycologia 79:328-331, 1987)

Fifteen mechanistic and 15 empirical models for studying relationships between air pollutant exposure and vegetation response were analyzed by S. Krupa of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, and R. N. Kickert, a consultant in Corvallis, OR. A key issue is that plants respond differently to pollutants at different stages of their growth. (Environ. Pollut. 44:127-158, 1987)

Isolates of Phytophthora infestans from Mexico are largely diploid, whereas those from the United States and Europe are diploid, triploid, tetraploid, and aneuploid, report P. W. Tooley of the USDA in Frederick, MD, and C. D. Therrien of Pennsylvania State University, University Park. (Exp. Mycol. 11:19-26, 1987)

Ceratocystis fimbriata f. sp. platani transmission through roots from one plane tree to another was shown for the first time by S. M. Accordi of the Institute of Plant Pathology in Padua, Italy. (Inf. Fitopatol. 36[11]:53-58, 1986)

Mustard seeds infected with Fusarium oxysporum contain the mycotoxins zearalenone, diacetoxyscirpenol, and T-2, according to D. K. Chakrabarti and S. Ghosal of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. Mustard is the second main edible oil crop in India, and prolonged ingestion of moldy mustard seeds presents a high toxic risk to humans. (Mycopathologia 97:69-75, 1987)

The host-specific nature of a toxin from Alternaria brassicae was reported for the first time by P. S. Bains and J. P. Tewari of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. The toxin distinguished susceptibility differences within Brassica campestris and did not elicit symptoms on nine nonhost plant genera. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 30:259-271, 1987)

A medium for isolating Helminthosporium pedicellatum from corn roots was devised by O. A. Egunjobi of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and C. Martinson of Iowa State University, Ames. Potato-dextrose agar is amended with 100 µg of benomyl, 6 µg of tetracycline hydrochloride, and 135 µg of streptomycin sulfate per liter of medium. Root pieces treated with 10% NaOCl are dispersed in the medium when liquid. (Phytoparasitica 14:297-301, 1986)

Population densities of Pythium species (HS group) in soil fluctuated widely over a 45-day period, report J. M. Hardman and M. W. Dick of the University of Reading, England. Temperature was more important than rainfall in explaining fluctuations. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 88:29-39, 1987)

Marine algal products are not equally effective in controlling plant-parasitic nematodes, report S. Paracer of Worcester State College, Worcester, MA, A. C. Tarjan of the University of Florida, Gainesville, and L. M. Hodgson of the Harbor Branch Institution, Fort Pierce, FL. Extracts of the brown alga Spatoglossum schroederi immobilized juvenile nematodes within 24 hr, resulting in significant increases in top growth of tomato. (J. Nematol. 19:194-200, 1987)