Focus

Ash yellow disease, caused by a mycoplasma, was found for the first time in the western United States on Modesto ash (*Fraxinus velutina*) in Las Vegas by M. H. Sheta of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Las Vegas. (M. H. Sheta, personal communication, 13 November 1987)

Wind accounted for dispersal of large numbers of spores of *Glomus* species up to 2 km away, according to N. J. Warner and associates at Utah State University, Logan. Viable spores were recovered also from inside and outside small mammals; 30% of spores in feces germinated. (Mycologia 79:721-730, 1987)

Growth of five mycorrhizal species was reduced significantly in culture by the herbicides glyphosate, hexazinone (granular and liquid formulations), and triclopyr, selected as most suitable for conifer release in competition from broad-leaved plants in North American forests, report P. Chakravarty and S. S. Sidhu of the Canadian Forestry Service in Edmonton, Alta. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 17:204-210, 1987)

Merckoquant nitrate test strips give reactions identical to those of the standard sulfanilamide/*N*-1-naphthylethylenediamine reagents for determining nitrate reduction in several plant-pathogenic genera of bacteria, reports E. J. Cother of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in Yanco, Australia. The strips obviate the need for fresh reagents and are useful as an off-the-shelf test. (Plant Pathol. 36:374-376, 1987)

Chemical analysis of cotton mesophyll cells undergoing hypersensitive browning and collapse due to *Xanthomonas campestris* shows them to be the fluorescent cells adjacent to the bacterial colonies and in which phytoalexins predominate, according to M. Pierce and M. Essenberg of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 31:273-290, 1987)

Bare patch of cereals is caused by a complex of *Rhizoctonia solani* (AG-4), binucleate *Rhizoctonia* sp. (AG-C), *Fusarium graminearum*, *Bipolaris sorokiniana*, *Waitea circinata*, *Mortierella* sp., and *Pythium irregulare*, and not by the same fungi singly, conclude F. A. Roberts and K. Sivasithamparam of the University of Western Australia, Nedlands. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 89:256-259, 1987)

The report of Verticillium wilt of alfalfa for the first time in Quebec follows reports of the disease from Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and, recently, Nova Scotia. According to H. Nicholls and associates of Agriculture Canada in Montreal and Sainte-Foy, Quebec, the disease is well established north of the 45th parallel. (Can. Plant Dis. Surv. 67:17-19, 1987)

Pinewood nematodes were found in wood chips in transatlantic shipments, reports L. D. Dwinell of the U.S. Forest Service, Athens, GA. Nematode populations increased significantly during the 17-19 days of the voyage; 90% of the nematodes were in the bottom 40% of the chips in the hold. (J. Nematol. 19:519-520, 1987)

Monoclonal antibodies have been obtained to distinguish isolates of grape fanleaf virus, report B. Huss and associates of INRA-Pathologie Végétale in Colmar and IBMC in Strasbourg, France. (J. Phytopathol. 119:358-370, 1987)

Microdochium bolleyi was the most frequently isolated fungus on roots of cereals, comprising 25% of all fungi, reports R. Jonsson of the Weibullsholm Plant Breeding Institute, Landskrona, Sweden. All of 70 barley cultivars tested for resistance to *M. bolleyi* became infected to some degree. (Växtskyddsnotiser 51:81-86, 1987)