

Focus

Cucumis sativus cryptic virus is a new virus on cucumber described by W. Jelkmann and associates at the Institute for Virus Diseases of Plants at Braunschweig, West Germany. The isometric viruslike particles resemble dsRNA, which was present in all seven cultivars examined. (J. Phytopathol. 121:233-238, 1988)

Soil and foliar applications of phosphorous acid controlled crater disease of wheat caused by Rhizoctonia solani, report F. C. Wehner and associates at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. (Phytophylactica 19:495-498, 1987)

Heterokaryon formation in Phytophthora after protoplast fusion was reported for the first time by A. C. Layton and K. N. Kuhn of Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. By this means, race-specific pathogenicity was shown to be phenotypically dominant to nonpathogenicity. (Exp. Mycol. 12:180-194, 1988)

The iojap gene, which causes white striping in corn leaves, depends for its expression on the nuclear background of the individual plants and not on environmental conditions, according to E. H. Coe and associates at the University of Missouri and USDA at Columbia, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and Stanford University in California. (Am. J. Bot. 75:634-644, 1988)

Synthesis of wortmannin by Fusarium was reported for the first time by H. K. Abbas and C. J. Mirocha of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Wortmannin, an antibiotic, toxin, and hemorrhagic factor affecting animals, is produced by F. oxysporum and also by Penicillium wortmannii and Myrothecium roridum. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 54:1268-1274, 1988)

Strip tillage into killed rye or oat cover crops to produce machine-harvested tomatoes resulted in increased populations of pathogenic nematode and bacterial diseases and did not affect yield in 2 of 3 years, report R. F. Cerkauskas and J. W. Potter of Agriculture Canada, Vineland Station, Ont. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 113:328-331, 1988)

Irrigation increases soybean yield in fields infested with the soybean cyst nematode, but lower water stress rather than reduced nematode damage is the reason, according to L. D. Young and L. G. Heatherly of the USDA Soybean Products Research and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station in Stoneville, MS. (Crop Sci. 28:543-545, 1988)

The genetic complexity of Fusarium species in the Liseola section is high, and currently described species are good in that DNA relatedness is 50% or less, according to J. J. Ellis, USDA Northern Regional Research Center, Peoria, IL. (Mycologia 80:255-258, 1988)

Corn pollen has an allelopathic effect on fruiting of watermelon, report R. Cruz Ortega, A. L. Anaya, and L. Ramos of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City. Pollen extracts reduced mitotic activity of watermelon by 50% and inhibited radicle and hypocotyl growth. (J. Chem. Ecol. 14:71-86, 1988)

Coating potato tubers with Bacillus subtilis before planting protected seedlings from black scurf, caused by Rhizoctonia solani, according to J. S. M. Tschén, National Chung-Hsing University, Taiwan. (Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn. 28:483-493, 1987)

Palmer amaranth residues were allelopathic to seedlings of cabbage, carrot, onion, and sorghum, reports R. M. Menges of the USDA-ARS, Weslaco, TX. (Weed Sci. 36:325-328, 1988)