## Focus Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

In screening plants for resistance to virus diseases, virus concentration is correlated with such traits as symptom severity and growth and yield depressions, reports H. Kegler, Aschersleben, Germany, who compiled correlations for 29 virus diseases and one viroid. (Arch. Phytopathol. Pflanzenschutz 28:3-21, 1992)

Effects of general combining ability were more important than effects of specific combining ability for reproduction and root galling by the root-knot nematode in diallel crosses of three resistant and three susceptible plants of white clover, according to G. A. Pederson and G. L. Windham of the USDA Crop Science Research Laboratory, Mississippi State, Mississippi. (Crop Sci. 32:1160-1162, 1992)

In field trials, treating seeds of chickpea, lentil, and peanut first with Gliocladium virens (107 conidia per milliliter), then with carboxin (0.1%), was effective against diseases caused by several soilborne pathogens, including Sclerotium, Rhizoctonia, and Fusarium spp., report A. N. Mukhopadhyay and associates at the G. P. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. (FAO Plant Prot. Bull. 40:21-30, 1992)

A Pseudomonas-like bacterium causes early blight on sweet cherries in British Columbia, report T. S. C. Li and P. L. Sholberg of Agriculture Canada, Research Station, Summerland. Symptoms include chlorotic patches on leaves and blight with gumming and dieback of current growth. (Can. Plant Dis. Surv. 72:120-121, 1992)

The ergosterol content of wheat grains is low in nonmoldy grain but rises as the degree of contamination by fungi increases and is also influenced by the availability of water, report I. E. Tothill and associates at the Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedford, England. (Mycol. Res. 96:965-970, 1992)

A low-cost, low-maintenance soilless system for producing and harvesting spores of vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, developed by P. D. Miller and D. G. Kitt of the USDA Soil Microbial Systems Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland, uses corn seedlings, sand, and a modified Hoagland's solution. (Mycorrhiza 2:9-15, 1992)

Turnip yellow mosaic virus causes a disease on radish in Sardinia, report M. Cugusi and associates of the Università degli Studi at Sassari, Italy. This is the first report of this virus on this host. (Phytopathol. Mediterr. 31:67-70, 1992)

Treatment of tomato plants with chitosan induces resistance (apparently systemic) to crown and root rot caused by Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. radicis-lycopersici, report N. Benhamou and G. Thériault of the Université Laval, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 41:33-52, 1992)

Flax serves as a trap crop for both branched and Egyptian broomrape, according to G. Herzlinger and associates at the Newe Ya'ar Regional Experiment Station, Haifa, Israel. Flax root exudates stimulate germination of broomrape seeds, and broomrape parasitizes, but does not flower on, flax plants. (Phytoparasitica 20:347, 1992)

Biomass production on wheat plants growing closely with corn cockle plants is 20-50% greater than that on plants growing alone in the same pot, report B. Søgaard at Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Frederiksberg, and H. Doll at Risø National Laboratory, Roskilde, Denmark. (Can. J. Bot. 70:1916-1918, 1992)

In cowpea, cowpea mosaic virus locates in cotyledons and bean common mosaic virus locates in seed testa, report M. D. Patil and B. M. Gupta of Sukhadia University, Udaipur, India. (J. Turk. Phytopathol. 21:21-23, 1992)