Focus

The incidence of soybean leaf spot caused by Cercospora kikuchii decreased and seed yield increased as the rate of potassium in fertilizer increased, report M. F. Ito and associates at IAC, Campinas, SP, Brazil. (Summa Phytopathol. 19:21—23, 1993)

Paecilomyces lilacinus and Bacillus subtilis were effective biocontrol agents for the chickpea root rot complex of Meloidogyne incognita and Macrophomina phaseolina, according to Z. A. Siddiqui and I. Mahmood of Aligarh Muslim University, India. (Fundam. Appl. Nematol. 16:215-218, 1993)

Both acetone and isopropyl alcohol stimulate conidial germination of 17 species and isolates of powdery mildew representing nine genera, report Y. Gu and X. Zhang of Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou, China. Germination is often necessary for identification. (Mycologia 85:203-205, 1993)

Application of Bacillus mycoides or of the fungicide triadimefon or pyrazophos stimulated formation of vesicular—arbuscular mycorrhizae in nine hosts, according to H. von Alten and associates at the Institut für Pflanzenkrankeiten und Pflanzenschutz der Universität, Hanover, Germany. Combinations of bacteria and fungicides were not synergistic. (Mycorrhiza 2:167-173, 1993)

Release of new oat cultivars with Pc38 and Pc39 genes (the most important resistance genes used in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces) resistant to crown rust in Ontario and Manitoba has increased virulences to these genes in these cultivars, report J. Chong and J. A. Kolmer, Agriculture Canada Research Station, Winnipeg. (Can. J. Bot. 71:248-255, 1993)

Of the different ways used to store cultures of 23 species of mushrooms, including the major cultivated ones, the best was preservation in 10% polyethylene glycol at -85 C, report M. Ohmasa and associates at the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Inashiki, Ibaraki, Japan. (Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn. 33:467-479, 1992)

In each geographic region of Germany, oak decline is associated with a particular mycoflora, although some fungi are specific and constant colonizers regardless of locality, according to R. D. Kehr and A. Wulf of the Institut für Pflanzenschutz im Forst, Braunschweig, Germany. Many frequently found fungi are weak parasites and contribute to the natural pruning and thinning in trees under stress. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 23:18-27, 1993)

Seedborne bacterial pathogens of tomato are controlled by immersing seeds in a solution containing cupric acetate, 5-ethoxy-3(trichloromethyl)-1,2,4-thiadiazole, acetic acid, pentachloronitrobenzene, and Triton X-100 for 1 hour at 45 C, reports G. Kritzman of Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. (Phytoparasitica 21:101-109, 1993)

Mutations in the virusoid of the lucerne transient streak virus that disrupt self-cleavage in culture also abolish production of monomeric (-)RNAs in plants, and the hammerhead self-cleavage is involved in the cleavage of multimeric (-)RNAs to monomers, according to C. C. Sheldon and R. H. Symons of the Waite Agricultural Research Station, Glen Osmond, Australia. (Virology 194:463-474, 1993)

Pseudomonas andropogonis and P. gladioli each caused black rot in stored tulip bulbs, report T. Morikawa and associates at the National Agricultural Research Center, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 59:10-17, 1993)