

Molecular beacons (probes that fluoresce upon hybridization) were developed by S. Tyagi and F. R. Kramer of the Public Health Research Institute, New York City, that, when introduced into living cells, enable tracing of the origin, movement, and fate of specific mRNAs. (Nature Biotechnol. 14:303-308, 1996)

Paratrichodorus teres can transmit two serologically distinct strains of tobacco rattle virus to petunia and tobacco, report A. T. Ploeg and associates at the University of California, Riverside, and the Research Institute for Plant Protection, Wageningen, Netherlands. (Eur. J. Plant Prot. 102:123-126, 1996)

Incidence of blossom end rot in tomato strongly depends on ion activity ratios in the root zone and less on salinity concentrations, report J. Willumsen and associates at the Research Center Aarslev, Aarslev, Denmark. A higher ion activity ratio results in a greater blossom end rot risk. (J. Hortic. Sci. 71:81-98, 1996).

Cryptodiaporthe melanocraspeda is a newly described species causing canker on Banksia coccinea in southwestern Australia, report J. A. Bathgate and associates at the University of Western Australia, Nedlands, and the Department of Conservation and Land Management in Como, Western Australia. (Mycol. Res. 100:159-164, 1996)

The slip-budding method (compared with the chip-budding method) greatly reduces the transmission of Xylella fastidiosa in plum but not in peach, report G. E. Boyhan and associates at Auburn University, Auburn, AL, and the Chinese Academy of Science, Wuhan, Hubei, Peoples Republic of China. (HortScience 31:89-90, 1996)

Stem bark tissue resistance to Heterobasidion annosum was reduced in Sitka spruce exposed to supplemental ozone for 275 days, reports R. B. Pearce of the University of Oxford, Oxford, England. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 48:117-129, 1996)

A strain of the clover yellow vein virus caused severe deformation and mosaic on borage, and this is the first record of this virus in Spain and on a natural host of the Boraginaceae, according to M. Luis-Arteaga and associates at Servicio de Investigación Agraria, Zaragoza; ETSI Agrónomos, Madrid; and Centro Nacional de Biotecnología-CSIC, Madrid, Spain. (Plant Pathol. 45:38-44, 1996)

Historical data on wheat stem rust in the U.S. and leaf rust in Canada, analyzed with a time-series approach to detect long-term patterns, led X. B. Yang of Iowa State University, Ames, to conclude that disease appearance in one year is statistically related to dates of appearance in the previous 1 to 2 years, a race diversity change may occur in the U.S. every 5 to 6 years, and rust populations in prairie provinces in Canada differed from those in eastern Canada in having a 4-year moving average component. (J. Phytopathol. 143:651-657, 1995)

Susceptibility of rose flowers to postharvest infection by Botrytis cinerea in a greenhouse was linearly correlated with mean air velocity and not with temperature or relative humidity, but was inversely correlated with wetness, report P. E. Hammer and K. B. Evensen of Pennsylvania State University, University Park. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. 121:314-320, 1996)

Use of pellets of agar, thatch-agar, and turfgrass agar with benzimidazole-sensitive Penicillium expansum to detect the major benomyl degradation product in thatch and turfgrass clippings was developed by L. X. Liu and T. Hsiang of the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Both bound and available fungicide could be estimated. (Pestic. Sci. 46:139-143, 1996)