

A gene encoding a bacterial hemoglobin in transformed tobacco plants increases plant growth and development, suggesting that oxygen lack limits metabolic activity and the productivity of crop plants, according to N. Holmberg and associates at the Center for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Lund, Sweden; and the Institute of Biotechnology, Zurich, Switzerland. (Nature Biotechnol. 15:222-223, 244-247, 1997)

Petunia asteroid virus was isolated from sea water near the Isle of Helgoland in the North Sea, report E. Fuchs and associates at the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle-Saale, Germany. (Arch. Phytopathol. Plant Prot. 30:365-366, 1996)

Prolonged culturing of 17 parasitic nematode species on plants grown in agar dishes under nonsterile conditions was obtained by adding a vermicompost extract, according to M. W. Brzeski of the Research Institute of Vegetable Crops, Skierniewice, Poland. (Fundam. Appl. Nematol. 20:95-98, 1997)

The necrotrophic pathogen Cercospora arachidicola elicited the highest concentrations of phytoalexins in peanut leaves, whereas the biotrophic pathogen Phaeoisariopsis personata elicited the lowest; also, phytoalexins were elicited faster by application of salicylic acid than from infection by fungi, report P. V. Subba Rao and associates at the University College London, England; and ICRISAT, Andhra Pradesh, India. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 49:343-357, 1996)

Tap water is the main source of pseudomonads associated with vascular occlusion in cut rose flowers; thus, control measures should be directed at treating vase water, report W. G. Van Doorn and Y. de Witte of the Agrotechnological Research Institute, Wageningen, The Netherlands. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 122:263-266, 1997)

Fusarium proliferatum as a new causal agent of wheat black point was reported by R. L. Conner and associates at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, and the Alberta Research Council, Vegreville, Alberta, Canada. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 18:419-423, 1996)

Grapevine viruses A and B are related serologically as determined by Western blot analyses, report D. E. Goszczynski and associates at the Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa. (J. Phytopathol. 144:581-583, 1996)

High winter temperatures in a changing climate may result in an early loss of frost hardiness of Scots pine in winter and spring, and increase the risk of damage from frost, according to I. Leinonen and associates at the University of Joensuu, Joensuu, Finland. (Ann. Bot. 79:133-138, 1997)

Planting nematode-resistant cover crops did not significantly affect root-lesion nematode density in raspberry roots or in rhizospheres of adjacent raspberry plants, report T. Vrain and associates at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in Summerland and Agassiz, BC, Canada. (HortScience 31:1195-1198, 1996)

Fluorescent pseudomonads that produce 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol may account for natural suppressiveness of soil to take-all of wheat, according to J. M. Raaijmakers and associates at the USDA-ARS and Washington State University, Pullman. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 63:881-887, 1997)

Because highest numbers of Fusarium propagules and mycotoxin concentrations occur in barley hulls, growing hull-less cultivars is a means to manage mycotoxins associated with Fusarium head blight, report R. M. Clear and associates at the Grain Research Laboratory, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. (Can. J. Plant Sci. 77:161-166, 1997)