

Message to the Readers of Plant Disease

PLANT DISEASE is published monthly by the American Phytopathological Society as an international journal for applied plant pathology. The journal replaces *Plant Disease Reporter*, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1917 through 1979; volume numbers of PLANT DISEASE are continuous with those of *Plant Disease Reporter*. The Editorial Board of PLANT DISEASE includes the existing board of Associate Editors of *Plant Disease Reporter* for peer review of manuscripts, a new Editor-in-Chief, three Senior Editors, and an Advisory Board. This premiere issue was developed by a committee (Chairman R. J. Cook, Thor Kommedahl, Edward Lloyd, Hilde McGrath, Steve Nelson, Malcolm Shurtleff, and Paul Williams) appointed in 1978 by the President of APS. All subsequent issues will be produced by the Editorial Board.

PLANT DISEASE will continue the current services of *Plant Disease Reporter* in that each issue will be devoted primarily to original papers on **applied research** and to short reports of **new diseases and epidemics**. As a new service, each issue will have about four **features** (short reviews) on actual practices or methods developed for specific situations to reduce or eliminate losses caused by plant pathogens. Features will be used to meet the plant-health needs of all commodity interests, including ornamental plants and forestry as well as fruit, vegetable, field, and hay crops. Every effort will be made to balance the features among pathogenic agents, ie, fungi, nematodes, bacteria, viruses, and noninfectious causes of plant diseases, and among approaches, ie, cultural, biological, and chemical control and use of pathogen-free

stock and host resistance. Features will describe the progress of the plant pathology and plant nematology components of plant protection and integrated pest management. Features will also be used to describe unique approaches to teaching or extension.

Other new services of PLANT DISEASE will include an **editorial** each month, **letters** to the editor, a **focus** on highly significant new findings in either applied or basic plant pathology and nematology, a section for **society affairs**, **scientific news** about new and relevant findings in entomology, weed science, horticulture, and agronomy that relate to plant protection or integrated pest management, and a place for industry to list **new products and equipment**.

During its 63 years as a USDA publication, *Plant Disease Reporter* expanded from a simple, interagency, mimeographed publication into one of the leading international journals in the agricultural sciences. With the standards maintained and the services expanded, PLANT DISEASE will become an even more useful journal and valuable resource. The journal is intended for extension specialists and agents, for consultants and technical advisors in private business, and for teachers, researchers, administrators, and any other person or agency concerned in any way with the practical aspects of managing pests and maintaining or improving plant health.

R. James Cook
Chairman, Plant Disease Committee