

Readers Like What They See in *Plant Disease*

I wish to compliment you on a very readable *PLANT DISEASE* (January 1980, Volume 64, Number 1). The journal should be very useful not only to plant pathologists but to people interested in keeping abreast of changing technology in plant pathology. I have notified my counterparts in the Cooperative Extension Service at the land-grant universities, via my newsletter, of the change from *Plant Disease Reporter* to *PLANT DISEASE*. My counterparts are pesticide coordinators responsible primarily for the pesticide applicator training program in the Cooperative Extension Service.

James V. Parochetti
Pesticide Coordinator
USDA/SEA, Washington, DC

I am pleased with the style of *PLANT DISEASE*. The Editorial Board has put a great deal of work into the journal, and it shows. Keep up the good work!

Daniel J. Royse, *Assistant Professor*
Department of Plant Pathology
Pennsylvania State University
University Park

I was very impressed with the first issue of *PLANT DISEASE*. The format is eye-catching and tastefully composed. I think the Feature articles will be a real attraction. I teach our Introductory Plant Pathology course, and I plan to assign some of the Feature articles for class reading.

Steven A. Slack, *Associate Professor*
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin—Madison

Publication Date Important to New Taxa Descriptions

I certainly am pleased with the format and appearance of the January 1980 issue of *PLANT DISEASE* and with the kinds of articles, news items, etc., that it includes. Without question, the journal is a major accomplishment in the field of phytopathology, and my congratulations to those involved in its publication.

In the article "Leaf Blast of Turmeric" by Y. Rathaiah (p. 104), *Pyricularia curcuma* Asuyama is validated with a Latin description. This is proper, and I have no objections to including the

publication of new taxa in *PLANT DISEASE*. It should be made clear, however, that the valid publication date of the name *Pyricularia curcuma* Asuyama is June 1979, not January 1980.

Clark T. Rogerson, *Senior Curator*
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx

The publication date of the January 1980 issue of *PLANT DISEASE* (Volume 64, Number 1) was June 15, 1979. The January issue was printed in June to enable us to send the journal to libraries and to horticulturists, agronomists, entomologists, and others in the plant science disciplines.—*The Editors*

Do Fungicide Combinations Reduce Threat of Resistance?

The format of *PLANT DISEASE* looks good, and I like the idea of Feature articles. I would like a clarification of the following sentence in "Systemic Fungicides: A Perspective After 10 Years" by L. V. Edgington, R. A. Martin, G. C. Bruin, and I. M. Parsons (Volume 64, Number 1, p. 19): "The threat of resistance can be reduced, however, by using different systemic fungicides in combination or alternately in a pest management program." Please provide me with one example where fungicide combinations have reduced the threat of resistance. The alternate use has only delayed the increase in populations, based on our studies on *Botrytis* of tomatoes; the threat is still present.

There is much concern and need to reduce the threat of resistance, and I have not been able to find any scientific data proving that a combination of fungicides will delay the development or prevent the increase in population of resistant strains. As *PLANT DISEASE* is an international journal of applied plant pathology, I feel it is very important that information presented can be adequately supported, and, even more important, I would not want others to feel that combinations will reduce the threat of resistance unless such conclusions are based on sound scientific data.

J. M. Ogawa, *Professor*
Department of Plant Pathology
University of California, Davis

Dr. Edgington replies: The interpretation of the word "threat" is involved. As Dr. Ogawa indicates from his experience with

Botrytis in tomatoes, the use of combinations or mixed spray schedules does delay the increase in resistant populations. In Ontario, we have had only one case of benomyl resistance in apple scab, where the grower used benomyl in oil for three years exclusively. By common agreement, we strongly recommended against this for 1978 and 1979, and no further cases were reported in 1979. If we continue to be successful for 20 yr, we have, in my interpretation, nullified the "threat." Similarly, although I don't have a thorough monitoring system organized, we have found benomyl effective against *Botrytis* in strawberry grown in research plots where the grower always used captan and benomyl in a mixed spray schedule. Consequently, we recommend the alternate or combination use of fungicides in Ontario.

Resolution of Commendation for *Plant Disease* Workers

As instructed by the North Central Division extension plant pathologists meeting at the University of Illinois on June 26, 1979, and on behalf of extension workers throughout the world, I want to extend to the APS *PLANT DISEASE* Committee, Editorial Board, and Advisory Board the highest commendation possible for their tireless efforts in planning, organizing, and implementing the newest APS journal for applied plant pathology. All have done yeoman work, have devoted hundreds of hours into its formulation, and collectively have produced a journal with the type of format and features that will foster communications among all plant pathologists.

Each of us is indebted to each of them for their services to our profession, and we wish to acknowledge and say "thank you" for their foresight and unselfish willingness to serve the APS membership in this important capacity. *PLANT DISEASE* shall stand beside *Phytopathology* in the highest tradition of reporting scientific achievements in the profession of plant pathology.

David S. Wysong, *Recording Secretary*
NCD Extension Workers Meeting
University of Illinois, 1979

Send letters for publication to Letters Column, *Plant Disease*, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121.