

Focus

Stripe rust (Puccinia striiformis) of wheat was reported in nurseries in York, NE, with severities as high as 90% in some cultivars. Rust was also found in fields in southern Nebraska, northern Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. The disease is severe in the Pacific Northwest and is expected to cause serious damage in susceptible wheats in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and northwest Montana. (Cereal Rust Bull., Rep. No. 5, 23 June 1981)

Sugarcane smut (Ustilago scitaminea) was observed for the first time in the Dominican Republic on 28 April 1981 by P. Ramirez and W. R. Cestero. Since appearing in Guyana in 1974 the smut has spread throughout the Caribbean islands, Central America, Mexico, and the United States. (J. O. Despradel, J. D. Ayats, F. H. Redman, and J. T. Presley, Gulf + Western Americas Corp., La Romana, private communication, 15 June 1981)

Anthracnose (Colletotrichum graminicola) caused losses in corn yields from 0 to 12% according to year and location and from 0 to 53% according to specific hybrids of inoculated plants in a 3-yr study by T. A. Natti and D. G. White of the University of Illinois, Urbana. Hybrids with C 123 combinations suffered the greatest loss, and lodging was the most important component of yield loss. (APS North Central Division Meeting, June 1981)

Fusarium patch (Fusarium nivale) of turf was noted in Minnesota--from Bemidji in the north to the Iowa border--on 23 to 28 May 1981. The disease was attributed to cool, wet weather and low soil temperature during this period. Fungicides checked further development and turf loss. (W. Stienstra and C. E. Windels, University of Minnesota, private communication, 19 June 1981)

Mycorrhizae introduced into the seedbed of barley stimulated seed yield by 27% and increased seed phosphorus content by 35%, reports C. L. Powell of the Ruakura Soil and Plant Research Station, Hamilton, New Zealand. The mycorrhizae were mixtures of Glomus mosseae, G. fasciculatus, and Gigaspora margarita or of these species with indigenous mycorrhizal species. (Plant Soil Vol. 59, No. 3, 1981)

Applications of sulfur to barley to control powdery mildew significantly reduced yields by 13.5% at one location but by only 8% at another, according to J. D. Franklin and E. Williams, Jr., of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. (APS North Central Division Meeting, June 1981)

Sugar beet seeds treated with aldicarb produced sprouts that were poisonous to chickens and quail, reports L. Benjamini of the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. Birds that survived the initial feeding tended to choose untreated plants in taste tests. (Phytoparasitica Vol. 9, No. 1, 1981)

Sirococcus strobilinus was shown to be seedborne on Engelmann, Sitka, and white spruce in forest nurseries of British Columbia, report J. R. Sutherland, W. Lock, and S. H. Farris of the Pacific Forestry and Research Centre, Victoria. The seedborne inoculum accounts for blight occurrence in container nurseries. (Can. J. Bot. Vol. 59, No. 5, 1981)

"Tolremic" is a new term proposed by I. W. Buddenhagen of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria, to describe cultivars that have tolerated and/or resisted the development of disease or its effects, on a population basis. Tolremic plants limit the epidemiologic r of disease development. (R. C. Staples and G. H. Toenniessen, eds., Plant Disease Control, John Wiley & Sons, 1981, p. 228)