

Focus

Six new peanut lines (CBR-R1 through CBR-R6) resistant to *Cylindrocladium* black rot and 12 new rust-resistant peanut lines were released by the USDA and the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, to plant breeders, experiment stations, and other organizations for research and breeding use. The CBR lines were derived from more than 1,000 cultivars in the world peanut collection. The rust-resistant lines were tested in Georgia, Puerto Rico, and south-central India. (USDA and Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station news releases)

Powdery mildew of cucurbits in California, and perhaps throughout the United States, appears to be *Sphaerotheca fuliginea*, not *Erysiphe cichoracearum*, according to D. G. Kontaxis of the University of California, Pittsburg. Fruiting structures were so abundant on pumpkin as to resemble sooty mold infection. (Personal communication)

Increased amounts of organic matter (up to 45% by volume in the top 30 cm) in soil were associated with higher numbers of ectomycorrhizae, report A. E. Harvey of the Forest Science Laboratory, Ogden, Utah; M. F. Jurgensen of Michigan Technological University, Houghton; and M. J. Larsen of the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI. The effect was most pronounced in dry soil. (For. Sci. Vol. 27, No. 3, 1981)

Metalaxyl, originally effective in controlling downy mildew (*Pseudoperonospora cubensis*) on cucumbers in Israel, was ineffective in recent trials because strains of the mildew resistant to metalaxyl have developed, report E. Pashi and T. Katan of the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan. The resistance was stable through more than 10 successive inoculations on cucumber seedlings in the absence of metalaxyl. (7th Congress of the Phytopathological Society of Israel, 15 April 1981)

Of 12 fungicides tested against soft rot pathogens of yam tubers, only benomyl and thiabendazole prevented infection, according to S. K. Ogundana and C. Dennis of the Food Research Institute, Norwich, England. Tests were made with yam slices instead of whole tubers. (Pestic. Sci. Vol. 12, No. 5, 1981)

Lettuce as a catch crop between successive spring tomato crops in the greenhouse can control severe foot and root rot of tomato caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *radicis-lycopersici*, report W. R. Jarvis and H. J. Thorpe of Agriculture Canada, Harrow. This is the first report of controlling disease in this crop with residues applied to steam-sterilized soil. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. Vol. 3, No. 3, 1981)

Avocado decline in Israel is caused by *Pythium proliferum*, report Y. Pinkas and colleagues at the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan. Drastic reduction in water supply and canopy pruning help cure infected trees. (Phytoparasitica Vol. 9, No. 3, 1981)

Cambium cell walls of soybean taproots either broke or collapsed within 7 days after inoculation with *Phytophthora megasperma* var. *sojae*, report V. P. Campos and D. P. Schmitt of North Carolina State University, Raleigh. By 2 wk, phloem and xylem were damaged and xylem was plugged. (Fitopatol. Bras. Vol. 6, No. 2, 1981)

Coffee lethal root rot of coffee in Puerto Rico appears to be caused by *Ganoderma phillipii*, report J. S. Mignucci and P. R. Hepperly of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. Removing and burning infected trees and replanting with bananas can control the disease. (APS Caribbean Division Meeting, October 1980)

Long-term irrigation (25-60 yr) did not salinize soils at 13 sites in southern Alberta. According to C. Chang and M. Oosterveld of Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge, internal drainage was sufficient to prevent waterlogging and salts were leached from the root zone. (Can. J. Soil Sci. Vol. 61, No. 3, 1981)