

Focus

Aspergillus flavus can infect undamaged corn kernels through the silk and produce aflatoxin in kernels, according to D. T. Wicklow and associates at the USDA Northern Regional Research Center, Peoria, IL. Corn cultivars appear to differ in resistance of silks to infection. (Mycological Society of America Annual Meeting, August 1982)

Treating tobacco plants with isopropalin or diphenamid herbicide reduced "weather flecking" from ozone for 2-4 weeks after planting but not later in the season, report J. J. Reilly and L. D. Moore of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg. Pebulate had no consistent effect on sensitivity of tobacco to ozone. (Weed Sci. Vol. 30, No. 3, 1982)

Naturally occurring leaf resins from tropical trees (Hymenaea and Copaifera) are fungistatic to the leaf spot fungus Pestalotia sp. that grows within young, healthy tissue, according to S. Arrhenius and J. H. Langenheim of the University of California, Santa Cruz. (Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting, August 1982)

The integrated approach to controlling onion white rot recommended by R. S. Utkhede of Agriculture Canada, Summerland, British Columbia, combines cultivar resistance, cultural practices, and chemical and biological measures. None of these components is effective alone. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. Vol. 89, No. 5, 1982)

Drought stress (-5 bars) slows growth of elm trees by 15% and delays symptoms of Dutch elm disease by 5-10 days, according to S. Dilbagh of Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL. Stressed and normal trees were inoculated at the same time. (Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting, August 1982)

Composted hardwood bark with disease-suppressive properties contained many more isolates of Trichoderma hamatum than did disease-conducive bark, report G. A. Kuter and E. B. Nelson of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster. The Trichoderma isolates inhibited Rhizoctonia solani in a radish seedling assay. (Mycological Society of America Annual Meeting, August 1982)

The black pod disease of white beans (Phaseolus vulgaris) is caused by Alternaria alternata, according to J. C. Tu of Agriculture Canada, Harrow, Ontario. Pod discoloration varies from dark gray flecks or stipples to coalescing gray patches. Seeds become discolored, and the discoloration persists through processing. (Can. J. Plant Sci. Vol. 62, No. 2, 1982)

Mycelium of seedborne fungi can invade soybean seeds through naturally occurring pores in the seed coat, according to H. J. Hill and S. H. West of the University of Florida, Gainesville. This represents entry in addition to that from injuries or through the hilum. (Crop Sci. Vol. 22, No. 3, 1982)

Infection of Kentucky bluegrass with either Ustilago striiformis (stripe smut) or Urocystis agropyri (flag smut) significantly reduced the total biomass partitioned into rhizome production, report J. L. Nus and C. F. Hodges of Iowa State University, Ames. Flag smut significantly reduced the number and total weight of rhizomes. (American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting, August 1982)

Only one of 27 peach cultivars tested for resistance to gummosis caused by Botryosphaeria dothidea was highly resistant, while six others had some resistance, according to J. W. Daniell and W. A. Chandler of the University of Georgia, Experiment. Breeding for disease resistance offers a better chance for control than chemicals, which have been ineffective. (HortScience Vol. 17, No. 3, 1982)