

# Focus

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Speckled leaf blotch is the most widespread disease on wheat this year in Kansas, according to W. G. Willis and J. A. Houfek of Kansas State University, Manhattan. Leaf rust was found 28 February, the earliest recorded appearance in Kansas. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv., Rep. No. 1, 9 March 1984)

Oospores and mycelia of Phytophthora megasperma f. sp. glycinea race 1 were detected in soil by means of vital stains, reports S. D. Cohen of Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oospore viability was measured best with tetrazolium bromide. (Mycologia 76:34-39, 1984)

Anthracnose was the principal disease of coffee in production fields of Puerto Rico in 1983, report J. S. Mignucci and P. R. Hepperly of the College of Agriculture, Mayagüez. Fertilization plus fungicides reduced incidence of diseased berries by 85%. (APS Caribbean Division Meeting, November 1983)

Gibberella avenacea was reported on Pteridium aquilinum by C. Booth and B. M. Spooner of Kew, England. This is the first report of this teleomorph since the original finding by R. J. Cook in 1967. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 82:178-180, 1984)

Sclerotinia minor was found for the first time on peanut in South Africa by G. C. A. Van Der Westhuizen, N. Labuschagne, and P. H. De Beer of the University of Pretoria. About 4% of the plants in the Vaalharts Irrigation Area were affected. (Phytophylactica 15:75-77, 1983)

White rot of cereals caused by Sclerotium rolfsii was reported for the first time in Brazil by G. C. Luzzardi, W. C. Luz, and C. R. Pierbom of Rio Grande do Sul. Since 1978, white rot has been seen on barley and wheat in Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, and Mato Grosso do Sul. (Fitopatol. Bras. 8:371-375, 1983)

Two new satellite RNAs of cucumber mosaic virus were found by P. Palukaitis and M. Zaitlin of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. One, WL-sat RNA, induces "white leaf" on tomato; the other does not cause necrosis. (Virology 132:426-435, 1984)

Seedling roots of subterranean clover exposed to culture filtrates of Fusarium avenaceum attracted Heterodera daverti juveniles, report D. Nordmeyer and R. A. Sikora of the University of Bonn, West Germany. (Nematologica 29:88-94, 1983)

The number of fungicide treatments to control downy mildew in commercial hop fields was cut in half by application of a forecasting model developed from 1976 to 1982 by H. T. Kremheller and R. Diercks of Bayerische Landesanstalt für Bodenkultur und Pflanzenbau, Munich, West Germany. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Pflanzenschutz 90:599-616, 1983)

Gellan gum (Gelrite) was superior to agar in culturing thermophilic microorganisms, according to C. C. Lin of Merck & Co., San Diego, CA, and L. E. Casida, Jr., of Pennsylvania State University, University Park. Gelrite provided better thermal stability and clarity than agar media. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 47:427-429, 1984)

Thirty-five of 264 banana clones had some resistance to black Sigatoka disease in trials by M. N. Pearson, P. B. Bull, and K. Shepherd of the University of Papua New Guinea. Fifteen clones had AA genomes potentially useful in breeding programs. (Trop. Pest Manag. 29:303-308, 1983)

All strains of Gibberella zeae tested caused the same amount of ear rot and mycotoxin accumulation in a given hybrid, but corn genotypes reacted differently, report G. N. Atlin, P. M. Enerson, L. G. McGirr, and R. B. Hunter of the University of Guelph, Ontario. (Can. J. Plant Sci. 63:847-853, 1983)