

Focus

Speckled leaf blotch is the most common disease on the 1985 winter wheat crop in Kansas, reports T. Sim IV of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka. Incidence varied from a trace to 60%. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep., 2 November 1984)

Erwinia rhapontici was reported for the first time on wheat kernels in the United States by M. P. McMullen, R. W. Stack, J. D. Miller, M. C. Bromel, and V. L. Youngs of North Dakota State University, Fargo. The pathogen caused pink kernels in durum wheat. (N.D. Acad. Sci. 38:78, 1984)

Streptocycline spray or soil drench alone or with Blitox-50 controlled bacterial stalk rot of corn, report B. S. Thind, P. S. Randhawa, and P. S. Soni of Punjab Agricultural University, India. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Pflanzenschutz 91:424-430, 1984)

Sporothrix schenckii, a cause of lymphatic disease in humans and animals, was isolated from two of 12 brands of potting soil by E. M. Kenyon, L. H. Russell, and D. N. McMurray of Texas A&M University, College Station. Wearing gloves while working with potting soil is encouraged. (Mycopathologia 87:128, 1984)

Coating soybean seeds with benomyl increased nodulation and plant yields when Rhizobium and a mixture of microorganisms were added to the soil, according to A. K. M. Hossain and M. Alexander of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Colonization was increased by use of antimicrobial agents and R. japonicum strains resistant to those agents. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 48:468-472, 1984)

Degradation of pectin and xylan may be as important as cellulosis in saprophytic survival of Cochliobolus sativus and Fusarium culmorum, report D. Boothby and N. O. Magreola of Polytechnic of North London, England. Results may be applicable to decay of wheat straw. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 83:275-280, 1984)

Six new species of Exserohilum have been described by A. Sivanesan of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England, and a key to all species provided. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 83:319-329, 1984)

Citreoviridin was detected for the first time in kernels of standing corn in the field by D. T. Wicklow of the Northern Regional Research Center, USDA, Peoria, IL, and R. J. Cole of the National Peanut Research Laboratory, USDA, Dawson, GA. Eupenicillium ochrosalmoneum was isolated from citreoviridin-contaminated kernels. (Mycologia 76:959-961, 1984)

Resistant cultivars and lines of cowpea, muskmelon, mustard, maize, and tomato had a higher ratio of calcium plus magnesium to potassium than did their susceptible counterparts when tested against downy mildews and root-knot nematodes, report S. S. Bains and J. S. Jhooty of Punjab Agricultural University and N. K. Sharma of Himachal Pradesh University, India. (Plant Soil 81:69-74, 1984)

Self-blanching celery cultivars were highly susceptible and green-petiole types were resistant to yield-reducing celery mosaic virus, report D. G. A. Walkey and C. M. Ward of the National Vegetable Research Station, Warwick, England. (J. Agric. Sci. 103:415-419, 1984)

Winter wheat infected with Fusarium head blight in Ontario produced grain containing vomitoxin (deoxynivalenol) that declined in concentration from 7 July to harvest, report P. M. Scott and associates at several government laboratories in Canada. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 48:884-886, 1984)