

# Focus

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Inoculation of spring wheat with Azospirillum lipoferum increased both yield and nitrogen content of grains, report T. Mertens and D. Hess of the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, West Germany. Results were more striking on sand than on sandy loam or peat-clay mixtures. (Plant Soil 82:87-99, 1984)

Attachment of Rhizobium trifolii to clover root hairs is a specific process requiring more than inherent adhesiveness of bacteria to the plant cell wall, according to F. B. Dazzo and associates at Michigan State University, East Lansing. Early attachment and colonization occurred at root tips. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 48:1140-1150, 1984)

Growing carrots on narrow ridges instead of on wide, flat beds reduces the incidence of carrot cavity spot by up to 60%, report R. Jacobsohn, D. Dutra, H. Dan, and Y. Kelman of the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. Crop rotation and mineral amendments were not correlated with cavity spot. (J. Hortic. Sci. 59:529-535, 1984)

The association of viruslike particles with tarsonemid mites that seemed to propagate in rice plants was reported for the first time by E. Skikata and colleagues at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, and the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines. The particles were detected by ELISA in leaf sheaths (but not leaves) and in rice hulls. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 50:368-374, 1984)

Five fluorescent compounds, including scopoletin, were induced in cotton leaves by treatment with cellfree mycelial extracts of Aspergillus flavus, according to H. J. Zeringue, Jr., of the USDA Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, LA. (Phytochemistry 23:2501-2503, 1984)

Inoculation of seed potatoes with Verticillium biguttatum and three other hyperparasites, alone or combined, significantly reduced infection of plants by Rhizoctonia solani, report P. H. J. F. van den Boogert and G. Jager of the Institute for Soil Fertility, Haren, Netherlands. Sclerotial production on new tubers was significantly reduced. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 90:117-126, 1984)

Colonization of beans by vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae increased plant growth and yield and also reduced effects of the root-lesion nematode, report A. P. Elliott of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, and G. W. Bird and G. R. Safir of Michigan State University, East Lansing. (Nematologica 14:111-119, 1984)

Hydrogen peroxide prevented infection of spruce stumps by Heterobasidion annosum, according to Von E. Mohr of the University of Göttingen, West Germany. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 14:291-296, 1984)

Beauveria bassiana has potential as a bioinsecticide for the western balsam bark beetle, according to H. S. Whitney, of the Canadian Forestry Service, and colleagues at Simon Fraser University and the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. This is the first report of the fungus and its pathogenicity on this beetle in British Columbia. (Can. Entomol. 116:1419-1424, 1984)

Fusarium wilt control in radish was not attributable to fungicidal action of the chelate ferric ethylenediaminedi-*o*-hydroxyphenylacetic acid (FeEDDHA), according to F. M. Scher, M. Dupler, and R. Baker of Colorado State University, Fort Collins. FeEDDHA and Pseudomonas putida had an additive effect on disease control. (Can. J. Microbiol. 30:1271-1275, 1984)