

# Focus

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Leaf rust is now present on wheat in north central Kansas as far north as the Nebraska border, according to T. Sim IV of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka. Traces of rust occurred in nearly every field. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv., Rep. No. 8, 3 May 1985)

Erwinia herbicola present on most alfalfa seeds inhibits nodulation of alfalfa by some Rhizobium meliloti strains, report J. Handelsman and W. J. Brill of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Nodulation occurred faster when seeds were disinfected than when the bacteria were present. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 49:818-821, 1985)

The citrus burrowing nematode, Radopholus citrophilus, consists of two genetically and morphologically distinct biotypes, according to D. T. Kaplan of the USDA Horticultural Laboratory at Orlando, FL, and J. H. O'Bannon of the University of Florida, Gainesville. The increase in spreading decline may be attributable to the appearance of new biotypes. (J. Nematol. 17:158-162, 1985)

Glyphosate reduced the ability of marginally inhibitory concentrations of metalaxyl to restrict spread of Phytophthora megasperma and stimulate glyceolin production in inoculated soybean hypocotyls, reports E. W. B. Ward of Agriculture Canada, London, Ontario. (Physiol. Plant Pathol. 25:381-386, 1984)

The original description of Fusarium scirpi has been amended and has been reported from Australia, South Africa, and Transkei, according to L. W. Burgess of the University of Sydney, Australia; P. E. Nelson and T. A. Toussoun of Pennsylvania State University; and W. F. O. Marasas of the National Research Institute for Nutritional Diseases, Tygerberg, South Africa. (Mycologia 77:212-218, 1985)

Plum decline disease in Greece is considered to be identical or similar to the apricot chlorotic leafroll disease in other European countries, report I. C. Rumbos of the Plant Protection Institute, Volos, and A. M. Bosabalidis of the University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Mycoplasma-like organisms appear to be involved in the etiology of these diseases. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Pflanzenschutz 92:47-54, 1985)

Apple scab severity in the field is reduced more by Chaetomium globosum plus benomyl than by either agent alone, according to D. Cullen and J. H. Andrews of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. C. globosum proved antagonistic to the scab pathogen. (Can. J. Microbiol. 31:251-255, 1985)

Incidence of cauliflower damping-off caused by Rhizoctonia solani was reduced by application of organic materials combined with ammonium nitrate, report P. K. Kundu and B. Nandi of the University of Burdwan, India. When the C:N ratio was high, fungal populations decreased but bacterial populations increased in soil. (Plant Soil 83:357-362, 1985)

Elm trees injected with chemicals for protection against Dutch elm disease healed faster in roots than in trunks after 22 months, reports R. W. Stack of North Dakota State University, Fargo. Wetwood symptoms were not related to healing of injection sites. (J. Arboric. 11:45-47, 1985)

Integrated copies of the cauliflower mosaic virus that direct synthesis of two polyadenylated transcripts were demonstrated by C. K. Shewmaker and associates at Calgene, Inc., Davis, CA. This is the first evidence of transcription of the same gene in different plant species. (Virology 140:281-288, 1985)