

Focus

The soybean cyst nematode was found for the first time in Kansas, in August, by T. Sim IV of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka. This nematode had been reported from Missouri in 1956 and from Oklahoma in 1976. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep., 23 August 1985)

A new species of *Phomopsis* on soybeans, *P. longicola*, occurs on seeds, pods, and stems, according to T. W. Hobbs, A. F. Schmitthenner, and G. A. Kuter of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster. (Mycologia 77:535-544, 1985)

Healthy pods can be obtained in peanut fields infested with *Pythium myriotylum* by planting seeds in raised beds, disinfecting the soil with metam-sodium, and using resistant cultivars, report Z. R. Frank of Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, and A. Ashri of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. (Phytoparasitica 13:41-45, 1985)

Inonotus quercustris is a new species causing white trunk rot on living water oak in Louisiana, report M. Blackwell of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and R. L. Gilbertson of the University of Arizona, Tucson. (Mycotaxon 23:285-290, 1985)

Peronospora manshurica oospores were found on soybean seeds exported from Malaysia to India, report P. C. Agarwal and R. K. Khetarpal, Plant Quarantine, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi. Seed infection ranged from 1.8 to 6.8%. (FAO Plant Prot. Bull. 33:39, 1985)

Fumigating logs of red or white oak with methyl bromide (240 g/m³) for 2-3 days eradicated the oak wilt fungus (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*), according to W. L. MacDonald and E. J. Harner of West Virginia University, Morgantown, and E. L. Schmidt of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Oak wood exported from North America to Europe must be treated. (For. Prod. J. 35:11-16, 1985)

Pseudomonas cichorii as a pathogen of wheat was reported for the first time by L. J. Piening and D. J. MacPherson of Agriculture Canada, Lacombe, Alberta. Symptoms of "stem melanosis" include bleached, empty heads and blackened rachis, peduncle, and stem tissue beneath nodes. (Can. J. Bot. 7:168-172, 1985)

Field emergence of beet seed immersed in aerated water until radicle emergence or exposed to polyethylene glycol solutions or MgSO₄ for 7 days at 15 C was better than that of dry seed, report A. G. Taylor and associates of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva. Apparently, bacteria protected treated seed from *Pythium* damping-off. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 110:516-519, 1985)

Clay tiles placed vertically in the soil form a microplot system for studying biological processes of perennial plants in the field, according to D. R. Phillips and J. D. Gaynor of Agriculture Canada, Harrow, Ont. A movable base support with a steel rod through the center facilitates removal of tile contents with a tripod and winch assembly. (Can. J. Plant Sci. 65:807-809, 1985)

The endophytes *Glomus fasciculatum* and *G. deserticola* on wheat roots benefit water-stressed plants and increase total plant biomass, report J. R. Ellis, H. J. Larsen, and M. G. Boosalis, USDA, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. (Plant Soil 86:369-378, 1985)

Research supporting the theory that life may have originated in Darwin's "warm little pond" (evaporated river water) rather than the ocean is based on chemical elements common to living organisms, sea water, river water, and crustal rock, reports D. H. Spaargaren of the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Texel. (Experientia 41:719-727, 1985)