

Focus

Three additional viroidlike RNA species associated with the citrus exocortis syndrome have been identified in citron by N. Duran-Vila and R. Flores of IVIA and CSIC in Valencia, Spain, and J. S. Semancik of the University of California, Riverside. This means the accepted understanding of the syndrome must be modified. (Virology 150:75-84, 1986)

Tomato ringspot virus was consistently detected in myrobalan and eight other plum rootstocks showing prune brownline symptoms at graft unions, report J. N. Cummins and D. Gonsalves of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva. Own-rooted Stanley prune trees remained free from infection for 14 years on a site where 36% of such trees on other rootstocks became infected. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 111:315-318, 1986)

Cotton plants highly resistant to the root-knot nematode would not only lower nematode populations in soil for the subsequent crop but would also provide field resistance to Fusarium wilt greater than that provided by wilt-resistant cultivars only, according to R. L. Shepherd, USDA and Auburn University, Alabama. (Crop Sci. 26:233-237, 1986)

Early infection with the cotton leaf crumple virus severely stunts cotton plants and reduces yield, according to G. D. Butler and T. J. Henneberry of the Western Cotton Research Laboratory, Phoenix, AZ, and J. K. Brown of the University of Arizona, Tucson. They estimated that plants 10 cm tall in late June would produce 6.7 g of seed cotton and those 20 cm tall would yield 56.8 g. (J. Econ. Entomol. 79:208-211, 1986)

Corn kernels naturally contaminated with Aspergillus flavus can tolerate temperatures up to 110 C for at least 30 minutes and some can tolerate 117 C for up to 60 minutes, reports G. C. Kingsland of Clemson University, South Carolina. This thermotolerance precludes any economically feasible adjustments to drying times or temperature for the elimination of A. flavus on grain. (J. Stored Prod. Res. 22:29-32, 1986)

Flyspeck of apple, grape, and Japanese persimmon is caused by Zygophiala jamaicensis, according to H. Nasu and S. Fujii of the Okayama Experiment Station and T. Yokoyama of the Institute for Fermentation, Osaka, Japan. In grape, lesions or rotting is not seen, only the evanescence of bloom on the berry skin; microsclerotium-like bodies appear later, resulting in a flyspeck symptom. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 51:536-545, 1985)

Algal leaf spot caused by Cephaleuros virescens was reported on 87 species of woody plants in Taiwan by H. Hsieh of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Taipei; 21 are new hosts in Taiwan. (Taiwan For. Res. Inst. Bull. 445, 1985)

Penetration of the sieve element in oats by the aphid Sitobion avenae is a prerequisite for transmission of the barley yellow dwarf virus, according to H. V. Scheller and R. H. Shukle of Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. About 54% of oat seedlings inoculated with single, viruliferous aphids for 90 minutes became infected. (Entomol. Exp. Appl. 40:189-195, 1986)

Ryegrass infected with the endophytic fungus Acremonium loliae confers resistance to the Argentine stem weevil, report D. D. Rowan and D. L. Gaynor of Dominion Scientific and Industrial Research in Palmerston North, New Zealand. The insect-inhibiting extract, named peramine, differs from the chemical in infected ryegrass that causes staggers in livestock. (J. Chem. Ecol. 12:647-658, 1986)