

# Focus

---

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum proved pathogenic in field trials, causing wilting and death of shoots and root rot of Canada thistle and killing 20-95% of plants, report B. S. Brosten and D. C. Sands of Montana State University, Bozeman. (Weed Sci. 34:377-380, 1986)

Of 47 corn hybrids inoculated with Fusarium culmorum and F. subglutinans, 7 were resistant, 31 were moderately to very susceptible, and 9 were very susceptible to cob rot, reports B. Zwatz, Bundesanstalt für Pflanzenschutz, Vienna, Austria. Infected kernels were counted and the percentage of cob attacked was estimated. (Pflanzenschutzberichte 47:15-24, 1986)

Broomrape in tobacco was controlled with glyphosate (0.2 kg/ha) 40 days after tobacco was transplanted in plots where soil had been treated with pebulate, according to P. C. Lolas of the Tobacco Institute in Drama, Greece. (Weed Sci. 34:427-430, 1986)

Certain concentrations of the yeast Tilletiopsis minor limited powdery mildew of cucumber in the greenhouse under optimum conditions for cucumber growth, reports T. Hijwegen of Agricultural University, Wageningen, Netherlands. The yeast lacks sensitivity to dimethirimol and fenarimol and thus may be useful in integrated control. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 92:93-95, 1986)

Gold-labeled antirabbit immunoglobulin G was used for differentiation of fungi associated with ericaceous roots, and the fungi were identified and differentiated in root tissue, report W. C. Mueller, B. J. Tessier, and L. Englander of the University of Rhode Island, Kingston. Complexity of fungal associations was elucidated also. (Can. J. Bot. 64:718-723, 1986)

European mistletoe (Viscum album) has spread to a 114-km<sup>2</sup> area in California since being introduced in 1900 and occurs on 22 hosts, report F. G. Hawksworth of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO, and R. F. Scharpf of the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Berkeley, CA. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 16:1-5, 1986)

A spruce stand exposed to high concentrations of air pollutants produced fewer species of mycorrhizal fungi and a lower biomass of fruiting bodies than did a stand exposed to lower concentrations, reports G. Schlechte of the University of Göttingen, West Germany. (Z. Mycol. 52:225-232, 1986)

Improvement of brown leaf spot resistance in smooth brome grass requires four cycles of recurrent phenotypic selection, according to C. C. Berg, R. T. Sherwood, and K. E. Zeiders of the U.S. Regional Pasture Research Laboratory, University Park, PA. (Crop Sci. 26:533-536, 1986)

Incidence of bitter pit of apple can be reduced by postharvest application of phorone, report K. J. Scott of the Department of Agriculture of New South Wales and R. B. H. Wills and C. M. C. Yuen of the University of New South Wales, Kensington, Australia. Phorone was as effective as 4% calcium chloride as a postharvest dip but sometimes induced an off flavor. (HortScience 21:268-270, 1986)

Turnips were inoculated with cauliflower mosaic virus by using pCa305 in Agrobacterium tumefaciens as the vector, report N. Grimsley, B. Hohn, T. Hohn, and R. Walden of Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel, Switzerland, and the University of Leicester in England. The term "agroinfection" was proposed for this method of inoculation. (Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA 83:3282-3286, 1986)