

Focus

A wick bioassay to screen peach shoot cultures for resistance to bacterial spot, developed by F. A. Hammerschlag of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, MD, is useful in screening somaclonal variants obtained in peach cell cultures. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 113:164-166, 1988)

Oak decline in Quercus cerris occurred extensively in the Alto Lazio region of Italy, reports A. Vannini of the University of Tuscio-Viterbo. The cause is attributed to drought and Hypoxyylon mediterraneum. (Inf. Fitopatol. 38:54-59, 1987)

A double-row system for screening tobacco plants for resistance to nematodes in the field was developed by A. P. F. Cornelissen of the Tobacco and Cotton Research Institute in Rustenburg, South Africa. Planting two rows on ridges and two in furrows increases the degree of certainty that tolerant or resistant plants can be selected. (Nematologica 33:123-125, 1987)

A dsRNA mycovirus identified in uredospores of Puccinia sorghi, the cause of corn rust, by A. Pryor and M. G. Boelen of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization, Canberra, Australia, did not affect pathogenicity. Similar particles were not found in P. polysora. (Can. J. Bot. 65:2380-2383, 1987)

Rice yellow mottle virus was found occurring naturally in upland cultivation for the first time in the Ivory Coast, report V. A. Awoderu and associates of the West African Rice Development Association in Liberia and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. This virus also occurs in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali. (FAO Plant Prot. Bull. 35:32-33, 1987)

A freeze substitution method for cytological analysis of fungi was developed by R. J. Howard of DuPont in Wilmington, DE, and K. L. O'Donnell of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Such methods are intended for studying cells in monolayer cultures, tissues, cell suspensions, and fractions. (Exp. Mycol. 11:250-269, 1987)

Eugenol, produced by the plant Ocimum sanctum, can reduce nematode infection and promote growth of Hibiscus esculentus, report S. K. Bala and N. C. Sukul of Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal, India. It is systemic as a foliar spray and can be phytotoxic at high concentrations. (Nematologica 17:219-222, 1987)

Delaying the planting date of rice virtually eliminated the occurrence of barley yellow dwarf virus on rice in Spain, report C. Jorda and associates at the Polytechnic University in Valencia. The effect was attributed to timing of vector flights and temperature. (Phytopathol. Mediterr. 26:11-14, 1987)

Immersing roots of tomato seedlings in a streptomycin solution (1 g/L) for 3 hours at 20 C prevented bacterial canker caused by Corynebacterium michiganense, according to O. Pilavci and I. Ulukus of the Biological Control Research Institute in Antalya, Turkey. (J. Turk. Phytopathol. 16:71-76, 1987)

Xylem-limited bacteria causing plum leaf scald overwinter in Japanese plum twigs in Georgia and can be transmitted anytime vectors are present, report C. J. Chang, University of Georgia, Experiment, and C. E. Younce, USDA Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Laboratory, Byron, GA. Treatment is most effective in April and May, when bacterial populations are lowest. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 53:345-353, 1987)

Phytophthora drechsleri, alone or with P. megasperma, was reported for the first time as causing root rot of alfalfa by A. H. Thompson of the Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa. (Phytophylactica 19:319-322, 1987)