

# Industry News

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The following are excerpts from the "New Products and Services from Industry" discussion at the 1988 annual meeting of The American Phytopathological Society.

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Agri-Diagnostics Associates has developed a line of simple-to-use kits for rapid detection of important plant pathogens in crops. ALERT kits are based on immunoassay technology that employs an ELISA flow-through format. The kits are management tools that assist crop consultants, field representatives, pest control advisors, sales personnel, and growers in making accurate, timely disease diagnosis. The kits can be used to test seedlings, roots, stems, crowns, leaves, pods, flowers, and tubers of a wide variety of crops.

Users collect representative samples of the crop to be tested and prepare an extract of the tissue with the Extrak sample preparation pads provided in every kit. Drops of extract are squeezed onto a specific disease detector that has been activated with purified antibodies to the particular pathogen. The remaining test solutions are added from dropper bottles supplied in the kit. Color develops in a test well on the detector if the pathogen is present. The results can be read visually by comparing the test well with a negative control well. For quantitative results, the color can be read with an AgriMeter II, also available from Agri-Diagnostics. The entire test procedure can be completed in less than 10 minutes, making ALERT kits the fastest method to accurately detect Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, and Sclerotinia in crop tissues.

For more information contact: Richard Lankow, Agri-Diagnostics, 2611 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077; (609) 829-6935.

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Biolog's GN MicroPlate can be used to identify more than 300 species or groups of gram-negative aerobic bacteria, including over 200 species of "nonenterics." The GN MicroPlate is an optimized panel composed of 95 carbon source utilization tests. Each well of the microplate contains a different carbon source along with Biolog's patented redox chemistry in a dry form. The chemistry is rehydrated in less than 1 minute by inoculation with a cell suspension. Utilization of the carbon source in a well results in a redox reaction that forms a purple color in 4 to 24 hours. Approximately 80% of the gram-negatives in the database can be identified at 4 hours. Users can greatly increase their efficiency and capacity—a single microbiologist can perform several thousand metabolic tests in a single day without having to prepare any test media.

Anyone with access to an IBM PC computer can use GN MicroPlates to identify gram-negative bacteria. The database is currently available in two versions. With version 1, the user visually reads the color changes in the 95 wells and types the changes into the computer display; the computer then searches the database and identifies the species. Version 2 of GN MicroLog software is designed for use with the MicroStation, a computer-controlled microplate reader that automatically reads test results into the computer display, searches the database for an identification, and stores results into a computer file.

For more information or to obtain a free copy of a book describing Biolog's technology and listing the metabolic properties and current nomenclature for 260 gram-negatives, contact: Bruce Chadderdon, Biolog, Inc., 3447 Investment Boulevard, Suite 3, Hayward, CA 94545; (800) 284-4949.

## Salute to APS Sustaining Associates

This section is designed to help APS members understand more about APS Sustaining Associates. Information was supplied by company representatives. Each month different companies will be featured. A complete listing appears in each issue of *Phytopathology*.

**Northern Marianas College, Contact: Florendo C. Quebral, School of Ag. & Life Sciences, Saipan, Guam 96950; 670 23 49 022.**

**Northrup King Company, Contact: Wayne L. Wiebe, Rt. 1 Box 507, Woodland, CA 95695; 916/666-0986.** Northrup King was established as a small regional seed firm in Minneapolis, MN, in 1884. Over the past 100 years, the company has grown into one of the world's largest general seed houses, marketing agronomic, vegetable, and flower seeds across the globe. Today, Northrup King is a member of the Sandoz Group of companies. Northrup King has a strong commitment to research. The goal of this research is to develop, produce, and market improved agronomic and vegetable crop cultivars. To help achieve these goals, the company has research stations throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Mexico, South America, and Europe. Plant pathology plays an important part in this research, both in the development of new cultivars with improved disease resistance and in the production and marketing of high-quality healthy seeds.

**Pennwalt Corp., Ag Chem Division, Contact: Dr. Larry Smith, Three Parkway, Rm. 619, Philadelphia, PA 19102; 215/587-7895.**

**Petoseed Co., Inc., Contact: Jon C. Watterson, Rt. 4 Box 1255, Woodland, CA 95695; 916/666-0931.** Petoseed was formed in 1950, specializing in research and production of hybrid vegetable seed. Petoseed currently breeds, produces, and

markets 20 classes of hybrid and open pollinated vegetable seeds. Seeds are produced and sold both nationally and internationally. Petoseed has six research stations in the United States and seven testing locations under their direction internationally. The company is a pioneer in breeding for multiple disease resistance and the research department is currently working with over 80 different disease-causing organisms in their hybrid program. The major research thrust is to develop hybrid vegetables for specific market needs worldwide.

**Pfizer Inc.—Tekchem, Contact: C. B. Cookston, Chemical Div., 10th Floor, 235 E. 42nd St. D, New York, NY 10017; 212/573-3818.**

**Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, Contact: Thomas S. Smith, Product Development Manager of Fungicides and Plant Growth Regulators, P.O. Box 12014, 2 T. W. Alexander Dr., Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; 919/549-2303.** Rhone-Poulenc is a rapidly growing company engaged in the discovery, manufacturing, and marketing of crop protection chemicals. It is the U.S. affiliate of Rhone-Poulenc S. A., the largest chemical manufacturer in France and among the 10 largest chemical groups in the world. Current products include the fungicides Aliette, Rovral, and Chipco 26019; herbicides Amiben, Ronstar, Asulox, Buctril, Tackle, Weedar and Weedar brand 2,4-D; the plant growth regulators Cerone, Ethrel, Prep, Amid-Thin, NAA-800, and Florel; the insecticides-nematicides Broot, Larvin, Mocap, Sevin, Temik, and Zolone; and the defoliant Folex. Aliette is a systemic material capable of providing bidirectional translocation in the plant. It is active primarily against Phycomycetes (downy mildew, *Phytophthora*, and *Pythium* species). Rovral (Chipco 26019) is a broad-spectrum fungicide providing excellent and long-lasting control of *Alternaria*, *Botrytis*, *Helminthosporium*, *Monilinia*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Sclerotinia*, *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Rhizopus*, and *Mucor*.

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