

Plant Science Says



March, 2004

Jacobsen Receives The American Phytopathological Society Fellow Award



The Society grants this honor to a current APS member in recognition of distinguished contributions to plant pathology or to The American Phytopathological Society.

To keep the APS Fellow award truly meaningful, annual election of nominees is limited to approximately 0.25% of the active membership—currently 9 or 10 Fellows per year.

Since APS first granted awards in 1965, 381 Fellows have been elected. Fellow awards are based on significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: original research, teaching, administration, professional and public service, and extension and outreach.

Barry Jacobsen was recently elected a Fellow in recognition of his contributions in research, professional and public service, and extension and outreach. From this department, he joins Eugene Sharp and Don Mathre who previously were elected Fellows.

Wheat and Barley Scab meeting by Yusuke Odake



The Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative meeting was held in Minneapolis from December 13-15, 2003. Dr. John Sherwood and I attended the meeting from MSU. There were approximately

250 scientists attending, most of them from North and South Dakota, Kansas and Minnesota - states which have serious disease loss due to Fusarium Scab. Others were from all around the U.S and some foreign countries, such as Australia, Germany, Norway, Canada, and Japan.

Even though the focus was on the scab diseases of wheat and barley, many different approaches were represented. There were a variety of sessions - Biotechnology, Chemical and Biological Control, Epidemiology and Disease Management, Food Safety-Toxicology and Utilization, Germplasm Introduction and Enhancement, Variety Development and Uniform Nursery. There were a few traditional approaches, such as the shape of a spray nozzle and ways of applying fungicides, but most of the research was related to genetics, finding varieties which have scab resistance, or inducing resistance by breeding and transformation.

There were 110 posters and 18 oral presentations, including Dr. Sherwood's talk entitled "Controlling Scab with Puroindoline-Expressing Wheat and Barley" which was collaborated with Dr. Mike Giroux. There was also a meeting basically for students and technicians to improve techniques for inoculating pathogens on the hosts.

It was a direct flight to Minneapolis and the conference was held at the Holiday Inn. Since all meals were provided by the Scab Initiative group and sponsors, we did not need to leave the hotel. Most of the attendants stayed in the hotel, so there was time to communicate with other scientists from different areas during meals, breaks, receptions, and even in the spa and swimming pool.

Since the Sherwood lab works on transgenics with fungal resistance, I focused on finding someone doing the same kind of work. I met four other scientists who currently work on producing transgenic barley. It was really nice to get to know someone in the same field. We shared common problems, and I obtained useful information for my research through the conference.

Bob's Byte by Bob Johnston Changing Your Search Engine

Change the search engine that Internet Explorer uses by default:



- Click on Search.
- Click on Change Preferences – you may have to click on the down arrow to find this choice.
- Click on Change Internet Search Behavior.
- Select the search engine that you want to use. ie Google.

In Internet Explorer you can return to sites that you visited by doing one of the following:

- Click on the down arrow just to the right of the internet address field or click on the blue E just to the left of the address.
- Access the history folder by clicking on the clock with the counter clockwise arrow which is located on the toolbar at the top of the screen.

To permanently erase files in Outlook without sending them to your deleted items folder first:

- Mark the files that you want to delete. To select individual files, hold down on the control key as you click on each one. To select a group of files, click on the first one, go to the bottom of the list, press and hold the shift key and click on the last file in the list. This will mark the whole block. (This works with other file activities as well. ie copy or move)
- To permanently delete the files after they are marked. Hold down on the shift key and press the delete (X) key .

Soil PH by Bob Gough

With gardening season just about here, many of you will be tilling your soil and adding amendments for better plant growth. The soil pH is always high on everyone's list, but how many of you really know what the pH is all about?

Soil pH is measured on a scale of 0 to 14. 7 is neutral. The lower the number, the more hydrogen ions are present. These give acid reactions. Numbers less than 7 indicate acid pH and those above 7 an alkaline, or basic

Because the acidity of the soil regulates the availability of nutrients to your plants, it's important to keep the pH adjusted to the proper range. Many nutrients are not readily available to plants at pHs below 4.5 or above 8. Most are available around neutral, or 7.

Let's say between pH 6.5 and 7.5 to give ourselves some room. Soils below 6.5 need lime to bring them into the proper range for good plant growth. We don't have that problem here. Most of our soils are already on the high side, so adding lime is not a good idea. Wood ashes act like lime in raising the soil pH, so be careful you don't add too much of them to the soil. In most cases, add no more than 20 pounds of wood ash per 1000 square feet per year. Better still, don't add any if your soil pH is at or above 7.5.

My friends in South Dakota and Wyoming, as well as in Montana, share the similar problem of soil pH that is sometimes too high for best plant growth. Adding peat moss, compost, and sulfur will sometimes help to get it back down into the proper range. So check your pH with a do-it-yourself soil test kit, or have it tested by one of the many commercial labs that test soil. But try to keep it right. After all, that's what determines the availability of soil nutrients.

Thank you from Jody

I want to thank everyone for the nice send off last week. I have really enjoyed working in the department. I 'm going to miss all of the great people in PSPP. Thanks again.

Birthdays

Eva Grimme	9
Yousef Zadejan	17
Vladimir Kanazin	24
Elaine Nichols	31

Recipe of the Month

Broccoli Chowder – Cheryl Moore

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 large potato, peeled and diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tablespoon flour
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 cans (14 oz each) vegetable or chicken broth (3 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 pound broccoli crowns, cut into 1-inch pieces, separate the stems from the florets
- 1 cup grated reduced-fat cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 1/8 teaspoon salt, to taste

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium/high heat. Add onion, carrot and celery. Cook and stir about 5-6 minutes, until the onion and celery soften.



Add potato and garlic – cook and stir about 2 minutes. (Add a little broth and reduce heat a little bit if the bottom starts to brown!)

Stir in flour, mustard and cayenne. Cook and stir about 2 minutes. Add broth and broccoli stems, bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to medium. Simmer about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Stir in florets. Simmer covered about 10 minutes more, until broccoli is tender. Remove 2 cups of chowder and mash. Return to pot. Add cheddar and sour cream. Cook over medium heat and stir until cheese is melted and soup is heated through. Season with salt.

Makes about 6 cups of soup.

179 calories per cup.

Preparation time = about 25 minutes.

Takes about an hour from start to finish.

The English Language

If you ever feel stupid, then just read on. If you've learned to speak fluent English, you must be a genius! This little treatise on the lovely language we share is only for the brave. Peruse at your leisure, English lovers.

- (1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
 - (2) The farm was used to produce produce.
 - (3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
 - (4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
 - (5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
 - (6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
 - (7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
 - (8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
 - (9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
 - (10) I did not object to the object.
 - (11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
 - (12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
 - (13) They were too close to the door to close it.
 - (14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
 - (15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
 - (16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
 - (17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail
 - (18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
 - (19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
 - (20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
 - (21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
- There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which

aren't sweet, are meat. Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth?

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.