

Book Review

Robert M. Harveson, Linda E. Hanson and Gary L. Hein (eds.)

Compendium of beet diseases and pests. Second Edition.

American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, 2009, 160 p., 289 colour images, 10 black and white images. – ISBN 978-0-89054-365-8. Price 69 \$.

After 23 years an updated and significantly expanded compendium of beet diseases and pests was prepared by American authors. It contains much more information and images than the first edition. It pertains not only to diseases and pests of sugar beets but also other forms of beets, including leaf, garden and fodder beets.

The book is completed with a new introduction including the history of beet production and usage, botany, and breeding for disease and insect resistance. The main part of the book is divided into five major chapters: I. Biotic disorders as foliar and root diseases caused by fungi and oomycetes, diseases caused by viruses and virus-like entities, bacteria and mollicutes, and nematode parasites; II. Abiotic disorders as nutritional disorders, herbicide injury and other disorders; III: Postharvest deterioration of sugar beet; IV. Major insect and arthropod pests as root feeders, leaf and crown feeders; V. Newly emerging issues affecting production, such as fungicide resistance in *Cercospora beticola*, multiple root disease complexes, and new diseases of unknown importance. An appendix with scientific and common names of causal organisms, a glossary and an index are attached.

Each disease or disorder is characterised by its world distribution, symptoms, causal organism or agent, disease cycle, epidemiology, management, and selected references. Very useful are numerous colour images providing distinguishing symptoms. Microscopic characteristics of some pathogens facilitate an accurate diagnostics.

This second edition of the compendium provides significantly updated and timely information concerning rhizomania and several other new soilborne viral diseases transmitted by *Polymyxa betae*. It also includes several emerging production issues of potential concern including development of fungicide-resistant strains of *Cercospora betae*, root disease complexes, and new diseases such as black beet scorch and non-traditional *Fusarium*-associated problems.

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