# Phytophthora Root Rot--Seedling Resistance

Phytophthora medicaginis (Hansen and Maxwell) Sharie Nygaard, Jessica Tofte and Donald Barnes

### PLANT CULTURE

Co	ntainer	. Seedling cavities within a water reservoir or a
		deep flat or tub with a single drainage hole
		which is capable of being plugged
Me	dia	. Coarse vermiculite or a porous soil mix (eg. 3:2
		sphagnum-based soilless mix: perlite); provide a
		coarse drainage layer (eg. gravel); pure sand
		medium is not desirable
Tei	np/Light	. 20-24C; 12-16 hr daylength
No	of Plants	. 50-70 per replication
No	of Reps	. 3 minimum

### **INOCULUM CULTURE**

Source	. Seedlings grown on infested soi
Temperature	Corn meal or V-8 juice agar .4-12 C .6 months if hydrated

### INOCULATION PROCEDURE

Age of Plant	10-12 days (when first trifoliate begins
C	expansion)
Type of Inoc	Zoospore suspension or comminuted mycelium
Production	Zoospores are produced as per (2); or 9-day-old
	V-8 agar cultures of mycelium may be chopped
	in a blender for 10 sec.
Concentration	Aprox. 50 zoospores (3) or 1 ml chopped
	mycelium per seedling; mycelium prepared as: 1
	culture (9 cm diam) in 1 L water
Method	For zoospores- Presaturate the soil mix and
	drench inoculum over the seedlings (4); For
	mycelium- drench inoculum into shallow trench
	and then saturate the soil with water (1)

## **INCUBATION**

Plant counts	Moderate greenhouse or growth chamber Count at full emergence (7-8 days after seeding) Maintain flooded conditions for 2 days; keep moist until rated
Age at Rating	Rate when nearly all Saranac plants are stunted and dying, i.e. for zoospores- 10-12 days after inoculation, for mycelium- 14 days after inoculation

### **RATING**

ResistantVigorously growing plants with only slight to no
necrosis of tap and secondary roots; hypocotyl area
sound with slight to no chlorosis of cotyledons
SusceptibleStunted or dead plants with moderate to severe
necrosis of roots, hypocotyls and cotyledons

#### CHECK CULTIVARS

	Approximate Expected Resistance (%)	Acceptable Range of Reaction (%)
Highly		
Resistant		
WAPH- 1*	55	50-60
Resistant		
MNP-D1 <sup>b</sup>	46	38-54
Agate*	33	25-40
Susceptible		
Saranac	1	0-5

<sup>\*</sup>WAPH-I and/or Agate must be included for varieties with fall dormancy rating 1-5.

#### REFERENCES

- 1. Horhein, B. A., Bean, G. A., and Graham, J. H. 1983. Greenhouse technique to evaluate alfalfa resistance to <u>Phytophthora megasperma</u> f. sp. <u>medicaginis</u>. Plant Disease 67:1332-1333.
- 2. Miller, S. A. and Maxwell, D. P. 1984. Light microscope observations of susceptible, host resistant, and nonhost resistant interactions of alfalfa with Phytophthora megasperma. Can. J. Bot. 62: 109-116.
- 3. Nygaard, S. L. and Grau, C. R. 1989. <u>Phytophthora megasperma</u> virulence to alfalfa measured using single-isolate zoospore suspensions. Can. J. Plant Pathol. 11:101-108.
- 4. Nygaard, S. L. and Grau, C. R. 1991. Aphanomyces Root Rot Resistance. page D-2. Ln: Standard Tests to Characterize Alfalfa Cultivars (Third Edition). North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>MNP-DI must be included for varieties with fall dormancy rating 6-9.