

SOUTHWESTERN COTTON RUST

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Cotton rust was much less prevalent and damaging in 1966 than in 1965. Even so, minor losses occurred in Cochise, Graham, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties. In an experimental plot near Continental, zineb and several experimental fungicides were applied for control of rust. However, the disease failed to occur in damaging amounts in this field and no yield data were recorded.

Commercial application of zineb was made on an extensive acreage in this general area and excellent control of the disease was established. With above-average rainfall occurring during the latter part of the summer there was widespread development of the overwintering stage of the rust on grama grass in several of the southern counties.

Experimental work on other phases of the cotton rust problem is being conducted in laboratory and greenhouse tests.

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PLANTING TECHNIQUE, SEED TREATMENT AND SOIL FUNGICIDE

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In a seedling-disease control experiment at Marana, the effect of seed treatment and a soil fungicide was extended to include the effect of planting technique, that is, the capping or covering of seed rows vs. smooching of the rows with an inverted plow disk. The planting seed was of variety Hopicala and used at about 22 lbs./A. The seed was untreated or treated with Panogen + PCNB seed treatment. The soil fungicide was Terraclor Super X Granular and was used at the rate of 15 lbs./A. into the seed furrow or was omitted. The planting operation was completed by throwing a covering cap of soil over 1/2 of the rows while the remaining rows were smooched.

The data recorded on seedlings lost to damping off and the final stand at 30 days after planting are summarized below for the 8 treatments in this experiment.