

SUGAR BEET (*Beta vulgaris*)  
Rhizomania; *Beet necrotic yellow vein virus*  
Storage rot; *Athelia*-like sp., *Botrytis cinerea*,  
and *Penicillium* spp.

K. Dorn, USDA-ARS Sugar Beet Res. Unit, Crops Res. Lab,  
1701 Centre Ave., Ft. Collins, CO 80526 and C. A.  
Strausbaugh, E. Vincill, and R. Majumdar, USDA-ARS  
NWISRL, 3793 N. 3600 E., Kimberly, ID 83341

### **Fort Collins sugar beet germplasm evaluated for rhizomania and storage rot resistance in Idaho, 2023.**

Thirty sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris* L.) lines from the USDA-ARS Ft. Collins sugar beet program and five check cultivars were screened for resistance to *Beet necrotic yellow vein virus* (BNYVV), the causal agent of rhizomania, and to storage rot. The rhizomania evaluation was conducted at the USDA-ARS North Farm in Kimberly, ID which has Portneuf silt loam soil and had been in barley in 2022. The field was fall plowed with a Terrano chisel plow. In the spring the field was fertilized (115 lb N and 140 lb P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/A) and roller harrowed on 10 Apr 23. The germplasm was planted (density of 114,048 seeds/A) on 2 May. The plots were one row 10-ft long with 22-in. between-row spacing and arranged in a randomized complete block design with 6 replicates. The crop was managed according to standard cultural practices for southern Idaho. The trial relied on endemic field inoculum for rhizomania and storage rot development. The plots were rated for rhizomania foliar symptom (percentage of plants with yellow, stunted, upright leaves) development on 7 Aug. The plants were mechanically topped and hand harvested on 16-17 Oct. At harvest, ten roots per plot were rated for rhizomania symptom development using a scale of 0 to 9 (0 = healthy and 9 = dead; Plant Disease 92:581-587). At harvest, eight roots per plot were also placed in a mesh-onion bag and kept in an indoor commercial storage facility (temperature set point 34°F) in Paul, ID on 18 Oct. On 11 Mar 24, after 145 days in storage, the roots were evaluated for the percentage of root surface area covered by fungal growth or rot. Except for root ratings, data were analyzed in SAS (Ver. 9.4) using the general linear model (Proc GLM) procedure, and Fisher's protected least significant difference ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) was used for mean comparisons. The root ratings were analyzed in a nonparametric analysis as described by Shah and Madden (Phytopathology 94:33-43).

Rhizomania symptom development was uniform and other disease problems were not evident in the plot area. Line 18 (20151046PF) failed to produce enough plants, so there is no data for this entry in the table. The BNYVV susceptible check plots (Check 1 and Red beet) had 100% foliar symptoms and high root disease ratings. Resistant check 3 had no foliar symptoms and a low root rating, which indicates that resistance based on these genes is holding up. Single gene resistance in Checks 2 and 4 had foliar ratings of 4 to 6% indicating single gene resistance is not completely effective, but the root ratings were still good. Twelve entries had a level of BNYVV resistance similar to at least one of the resistant checks based on the root ratings, but some foliar ratings were higher than those for the resistant checks. Entries 5 and 8 had foliar and root ratings statistically similar to resistant check 3. Entries 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, and 28 performed well for rot in storage along with having good root ratings. Entry 5 was the only entry as good as resistant check 3 for all three variables. Some entries may serve as a starting point for identifying additional sources of resistance to BNYVV and storage rots.

Entry <sup>z</sup>	Description	Root rot in storage (%) <sup>y</sup>	RZ foliar rating (% susceptible plants)	RZ root rating <sup>x</sup>
Check 3	BTSSALCHK3 ( <i>Rz1Rz1 Rz2Rz2</i> ) = <i>Rz1</i> + <i>Rz2</i> resistant check	18 j-p	0 h	16 p
5	FC1037 PI 665055	16 k-p	8 f-h	19 op
3	FC1036 PI 665054	32 f-i	19 fg	21 nop
1	FC1020 PI 658061	16 l-p	72 c	21 nop
8	C869 PI 628754	39 e-h	4 gh	21 nop
Check 2	BTSSALCHK2 ( <i>Rz2Rz2</i> ) = <i>Rz2</i> resistant check	70 bc	6 f-h	21 no
10	CR933 PI 652891	30 f-j	12 f-h	21 no
Check 4	BTSSALCHK4 ( <i>Rz1Rz1</i> ) = <i>Rz1</i> resistant check	44 ef	4 gh	21 m-o
28	20161004HO	25 h-n	53 d	22 l-o
9	FC1038 PI 665056	27 g-m	39 de	22 l-o
14	20161004HO1	20 i-o	20 f	22 k-o
20	C890 PI 329964	30 f-k	38 de	22 k-o
15	20131011	40 e-g	79 bc	22 k-o
13	20151014HO selection from FC201 PI 634018	14 m-p	40 de	22 j-n
7	FC1018 PI 658059	6 p	51 de	23 j-m
6	FC1019 PI 658060	12 n-p	36 e	24 i-l
23	F1043 selection from PI 179180	72 bc	72 c	24 h-k
12	FC221 PI 651016	50 de	44 de	26 g-j
2	20171021	13 n-p	12 f-h	26 f-j
11	20061005HO1	72 bc	7 f-h	26 f-j
4	FC1022 PI 658062	29 g-l	15 f-h	27 f-i
26	20161016PF	78 b	93 ab	28 e-h
21	FC305 PI 671963	60 cd	100 a	29 e-g
29	20041010HO1 FC712 CMS	51 de	97 a	30 d-f
16	20151043PF	69 bc	100 a	31 de
25	2013A031 NSL80221	72 bc	95 a	32 c-e
24	FC727 PI 599669	38 e-h	93 ab	32 b-e
27	20041010HO FC712 PI 590766	61 cd	97 a	32 b-e
22	FC607 PI 590837	8 op	100 a	32 b-e
19	US015 20202522 PI 590581	51 de	97 a	34 a-d
30	2013A081 Rekord Poly PI 535827	92 a	100 a	38 a-c
17	20181028 Rekord Poly PI 535827	70 bc	100 a	40 ab
Check 1	BTSSALCHK1 ( <i>rzz</i> ) = susceptible sugar beet check	70 bc	100 a	44 a
Red beet	Detroit Dark Red ( <i>rzz</i> ) = susceptible red beet check	100 a	100 a	51 a
$P > F^w$		<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
LSD		14	16	Trans

<sup>z</sup> All lines were *Beta vulgaris* subsp. *vulgaris*. Five commercial cultivars were included as checks.

<sup>y</sup> Root rot in storage = the percent of root surface area covered by fungal growth or rot. Fungal growth was dominated by an *Athelia*-like basidiomycete (Mycologia 104:70-78), *Penicillium expansum*, and *Penicillium cellarum*. Trace levels of *Botrytis cinerea* were also present.

<sup>x</sup> Ten roots per plot were evaluated for rhizomania symptoms using a scale of 0-9 (0 = healthy and 9 = dead; Plant Disease 92:581-587T). Root rating = a disease severity index value for each plot established using the following formula:

$[(A)0+(B)1+(C)2+(D)3+(E)4+(F)5+(G)6+(H)7+(I)8+(J)9]/90]100$ , where A-J are the number of plants in categories 0-9, respectively.

<sup>w</sup>  $P > F$  was the probability associated with the F value. LSD = Fisher's protected least significant difference value ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

Within a column, means followed by the same letter did not differ significantly based on Fisher's protected LSD. Trans = root ratings were rank transformed prior to analysis with the mixed linear models (Proc MIXED) procedure, but the non-transformed means have been presented in the table. Mean separation for root ratings was based on a PDIFF comparison with a probability cutoff of 0.05.