

Diseases of Cereal Grains.

APS Digital Image Collections, APS Press, The American Phytopathological Society, 2001, ISBN 0-89054-266-X.

(CD-ROM is deposited in the library of the Society)

The CD-ROM series of image collections edited by the American Phytopathological Society represents a useful compilation of diseases and injuries of different groups of cultivated plants.

The present title consists of 712 colour images illustrating the diseases of barley, corn, sorghum, rice and wheat. Consequently, the whole collection can be browsed through according to the host plant, e.g. images nos. 1-144 concerning the diseases of barley, nos. 145-327 of maize, nos. 328-466 of rice, nos. 467-595 of sorghum and nos. 596-712 of wheat. Each slide can be searched for in the checklist and zoomed in for a larger view. The image contains also the following information: source (author), name of the disease, full scientific name of the causal organism or specification of the abiotic cause and explaining caption. In addition, it is easy to search the images according to symptoms, common name of the disease or to causal organism.

The diseases are mostly shown as parts of the plants that were attacked. In some cases infected plants are compared with healthy ones. Furthermore, injuries of stored grains are included. In some cases, the characters of several pathogens are completed with micrographs. Only a few pictures show views of attacked fields and distribution maps of a certain disease.

The scope of biotic causes of the diseases includes viruses, phytoplasmas, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects and parasitic vascular plants. A large number of images show injuries caused by physiological, genetic and climatic factors.

In my opinion, pictures that show seedlings in nursery boxes did not have to be included. I wonder why mycorrhiza as shown in the slides No. 577 through 579 was included, as it is no disease. The sequence of slides sometimes appears a bit chaotic: I find for example that slides No. 700 through 705 (viruses) should come after slide No. 646. And there seem to be several other cases where another sequence would be more suitable. The entire slide No. 590 that shows a life cycle of *Claviceps africana* is illegible.

Despite these minor drawbacks this CD is going to be very useful for teachers and students of plant pathology. The CD contains a remarkable number of diseases, including tropical ones. Including with its installation, this CD is an easy to use tool to create the necessary visual impact in lectures and other presentations.

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