

PRINCIPLES OF
PLANT PATHOLOGY

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Preface

This book is an attempt to provide a reasonably comprehensive account of plant pathology for students wishing to specialize in the subject, and for those other students who wish to obtain a background of plant pathology. The emphasis throughout is on principles, with references to sources of more detailed information where necessary. Since plant diseases caused by fungi have been more intensively studied than those due to any other single cause, the subject is discussed mainly with reference to fungal plant pathogens but reference is made to other groups of plant pathogens where appropriate. Although viruses cause many important plant diseases a detailed treatment of this group is precluded by limitations of space; fortunately several excellent books on plant viruses have been published in recent years.

Different plant pathologists have different ideas as to the form a book on plant pathology should take. After considerable thought I have adopted a fairly conventional plan in which two introductory chapters are followed by chapters on the main causes of disease in plants, the interaction of plant and pathogen, the interaction of populations of plants and pathogens as influenced by the environment, and the control of plant diseases. A brief chapter on plant injury due to insects, nematodes, mites and other animals has been included because, in my view, a wider approach to plant damage whether due to pathogens, pests or non-parasitic agents is desirable. The book ends with a chapter on sources of information on plant diseases. It would be unrealistic to suppose that the text is free from errors and notification of any errors or omissions will be appreciated.

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To N.P.T. and G.P.T.