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Lignification in wounded wheat leaves in response to fungi and its possible rôle in resistance

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Abstract

Lignin was synthesized rapidly around wounds in wheat leaves following inoculation with the non-pathogenic fungi *Botrytis cinerea* and *Mycosphaerella pinodes* and subsequent fungal growth was limited to the wounds. Wounding alone did not stimulate lignification. Spectroscopy, nitrobenzene oxidation and staining methods indicated that newly synthesized lignin had a different structure from the polymer in healthy leaves.

The rate of lignification was slower in response to the pathogenic *Septoria nodorum* and *Septoria tritici* and these fungi were not restricted to the wounds. Preinoculation with a non-pathogen delayed attack by either pathogen. The possible rôle of lignin in controlling the spread of fungi from wounds is discussed.



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Lignification in wounded wheat leaves in response to fungi and its possible role in resistance, the envelope, as F.

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