



Drs. Bailey & Tekauz in Aleppo, Syria (see p. 63)

President's Message

Karen Bailey

Recently I had the privilege of speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Weed Science Society in a symposium called Field Boundary Habitats: Implications for Weed, Insect, and Disease Management in Canada. It was a full day symposium with an eclectic array of speakers presenting views on buffer zones and other types of boundary habitats from regulatory, production, industry and research perspectives. In hindsight, it was interesting that most people expressed an intuitive belief that the management of bound-

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ary areas, whether with pesticides, biologicals, or by size and composition of the plants, would affect pest management in some way—they were just not really sure as to how. When the scientists spoke, the audience learned about studies on movement of pesticides in soil, water and air through different types of boundaries, changes in weed diversity from field to boundary areas, benefits of buffer zones for increasing the presence of arthropod predators and wildlife, and the types of boundaries that aid in insect control. I was starting to get

intimidated by the wealth of factual information that had accrued in these other disciplines. The reason was that when my colleague, Bruce Gossen, and I started to prepare the talk, we had difficulty in finding published data to support our beliefs about the effects of boundaries on plant diseases. Fortunately, the audience welcomed both facts and speculations. This experience highlighted an area in plant pathology that we, as plant pathologists, have neglected in the past, but could benefit from scientific exploration in the future. Anyone have any thoughts on this subject or is willing to take up the research challenge?

What's Been Happening in Fall 2002?

Diseases of Field Crops in Canada, 3rd Edition.

The editorial committee met with a book designer in late October to discuss the format and layout of the text and photographs. She will begin working on this by mid-December and the process will take about 2 months. In the meantime, we are investigating book printing companies to be able to co-ordinate the design and printing activities. We expect to have the presses running by March, so the new book will be released this spring.

CJPP On-Line. In September, Zamir Punja and Greg Boland met with NRC Press to discuss the options available to the Society in continuing to offer the journal on-line to members and multi-users. The Board discussed the report recommendations and decided to restrict on-line access to subscribers starting January 1, 2003 and a password will be provided to those who subscribe. The cost for providing the on-line service is about \$15.00 per individual subscriber. We are establishing a different fee structure for multi-user subscribers. You will see on the 2003 Membership Renewal forms, there is now the option to receive *CJPP* as a print copy, on-line version, or take both. It will cost \$15.00 more to receive both hard copy and on-line services.

We expect this transition to go smoothly, however if you have any concerns please contact the Journal Committee or Executive Board.

CPS-SCP News. The search for a new editor and second associate editor is over! Kelly Turkington from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada in Lacombe, Alberta has volunteered to take over as the Editor of *CPS-SCP News* after the Annual General Meeting, in June 2003. The initiation process is already underway as David is showing Kelly some of the "ins and outs" of each upcoming issue. I would also like to welcome Lakhdar Lamari from the University of Manitoba as an Associate Editor for *CPS-SCP News*. Lakhdar is fully bilingual in English and French (and maybe even more languages), so he will be seeking a

variety of stories in both languages for us to read. On behalf of the members, I would like to thank Kelly and Lakhdar for keeping up the spirit of the Society and for willingly stepping forward into these positions.

CPS Annual Meeting 2003.

The Chair of the LAC for 2003 is Ajjamada Kushalappa from McGill University. The annual general meeting will be held in downtown Montreal at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on June 22-25. The LAC is co-ordinating our meeting with the Quebec Network in Plant Protection, which will be held one day earlier. Plans are underway to develop a workshop on scientific writing. In addition, the CPS Microbial Genetic Resources and Culture Collections Committee (Chaired by Tom Fetch) is planning a symposium that is co-sponsored by the expert Committee on Plant and Microbial Genetic Resources and the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council. There will be presentations on the state of microbial collections in Canada and the maintenance and economics of world collections. The session will wind up with a panel discussion on the importance of microbial collections to future plant health. Check the website (www.cps-scp.ca) for future postings of more details and deadlines.

"One of the greatest honors you can bestow on your colleagues is recognition of their work and abilities. Take the time to consider forwarding a nomination."

CPS Nominations and Awards. It is the time of year for putting forward your suggestions of people to bring new ideas and energy to the committees and of people who should be recognized for their contributions to plant pathology and our Society. This will be the first year to receive nominations for the **CPS Award for Achievements in Plant Disease Management.** This new award was approved by the membership in 2002. It is intended to recognize the contributions to plant health in Canada by individuals or teams from industry or not-for-profit agencies (such as in the field of extension). One of the greatest honors you can bestow on your colleagues is recognition of their work and abilities. Take the time to consider forwarding a nomination for one of our awards or positions. For more information contact Khalid Rashid, Chair of the Awards Committee or Greg Boland, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

CPS Membership Survey. The Board wants to know how members feel about the services offered by the Society. It is important to us to keep the current membership happy and satisfied with the type and quality of services provided. Valued services may also attract others to join our Society. To do this assessment we need your input. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the questionnaire.

In closing, I wish to convey 'Best Wishes to the Members for the Holiday Season' on behalf of the Board. Thanks to each of you for your contributions to the Canadian Phytopathological Society this past year. We will look forward to a successful and prosperous New Year for our organization.

Mot de la présidente

Karen Bailey

Dernièrement, j'ai eu l'honneur d'être invitée à faire une présentation lors de la réunion inaugurale de la Société canadienne de malherbologie dans un symposium intitulé « Les habitats en bordure des champs : répercussions sur la lutte aux mauvaises herbes, insectes et maladies au Canada ». Le symposium dura toute la journée avec un étalage impressionnant de conférenciers qui ont présenté la vision des gouvernements, des producteurs, de l'industrie et des chercheurs sur les zones tampons et d'autres types d'habitats en périphérie des champs. En rétrospective, il est intéressant que la plupart des personnes aient pu exprimer la croyance intuitive que la gestion des zones en bordure des champs, avec des pesticides, des agents biologiques, la taille ou la composition des plantes, a un effet sur la lutte aux ravageurs d'une manière ou d'une autre, sans que l'on ne sache vraiment comment. Lorsque les scientifiques ont parlé, les auditeurs en ont appris sur les études portant sur le déplacement des pesticides dans le sol, l'eau et l'air à travers différents types de bordures, sur les différences dans la diversité des mauvaises herbes entre le champ et la zone de bordure, sur les avantages des zones tampons pour l'accroissement de la présence des arthropodes prédateurs et de la faune, et sur le type de bordure qui contribue à la lutte aux insectes. J'ai commencé à être intimidée par la masse d'information factuelle qui s'était accumulée dans les autres disciplines. La raison en était que lorsque mon collègue Bruce Gossen et moi avons préparé la présentation, nous avons eu de la difficulté à trouver des données publiées pour appuyer notre croyance sur les effets des bordures sur les maladies des plantes. Heureusement, l'audience a aussi bien accueilli les spéculations que les faits. Cette expérience met en évidence un aspect que nous, les phytopathologistes, avons négligé dans le passé, mais qui bénéficierait d'un éventuel examen scientifique. Quelqu'un a une idée sur le sujet ou voudrait relever ce défi de recherche?

Que s'est-il passé durant l'automne 2002?

Diseases of Field Crops in Canada, 3^e édition. Le Comité de rédaction a rencontré une dessinatrice-maquettiste à la fin d'octobre pour discuter du format et de la mise en page du texte et des photographies. Elle va commencer à y travailler à la mi-décembre et le processus devrait durer environ deux mois. Dans l'intervalle, nous essayons de voir quels imprimeurs seraient en mesure de coordonner les activités de conception graphique et d'impression. Nous espérons être imprimés en mars pour que le livre soit disponible au printemps.

Le CJPP en ligne. En septembre, Zamir Punja et Greg Boland ont rencontré les Presses du CNRC pour discuter des options qui permettraient à la Société de continuer à offrir la revue en ligne aux membres et aux abonnés à utilisateurs multiples. Le Conseil a examiné les recommandations de leur rapport et a décidé de restreindre l'accès en ligne aux seuls abonnés à partir du 1^{er} janvier 2003; un mot de passe sera fourni à ceux qui s'abonneront. Le coût pour fournir le service en ligne est d'environ 15 \$ par abonné. Nous sommes à définir une grille de tarification avec des frais qui seront différents pour les abonnés à utilisateurs multiples. Vous verrez sur le formulaire de renouvellement de l'adhésion de 2003 qu'il est maintenant possible de choisir de recevoir la revue en version imprimée, de la consulter en ligne ou les deux. Il en coûtera 15 \$ de plus pour, à la fois, recevoir une copie imprimée et pouvoir utiliser les services en ligne. Nous espérons que la transition se fera en douceur. Cependant, si cela vous pose quelque problème, communiquez avec le Comité de la revue ou le Conseil d'administration.

Le CPS-SCP News. La recherche d'un nouveau directeur et d'un deuxième directeur associé a porté fruit! Kelly Turkington d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada à Lacombe, Alberta, s'est porté volontaire pour prendre en charge

le poste de directeur du CPS-SCP News après la prochaine réunion annuelle de juin 2003. Le processus d'initiation est cependant amorcé alors que David profite de chaque nouveau numéro pour apprendre les trucs du métier à Kelly. Je souhaite aussi la bienvenue à Lakhdar Lamari de l'Université du Manitoba en tant que directeur associé pour le CPS-SCP News. Lakhdar est parfaitement bilingue anglais et français (et il connaît probablement d'autres langues) et il sera alors à la recherche d'articles dans les deux langues pour nous les offrir. De la part de tous les membres, je remercie Kelly et Lakhdar pour bien vouloir s'occuper du moral de nos troupes et pour leur enthousiasme à accepter ces postes.

<< Un des plus grands honneurs que l'on peut conférer à nos collègues est la reconnaissance de leur travail et de leur compétence. Prenez le temps de penser à envoyer une candidature. >>

La réunion annuelle de la SCP de 2003. Ajjamada Kushalappa de l'Université McGill dirigera le Comité local d'organisation pour 2003. La réunion générale annuelle aura lieu au centre-ville de Montréal à l'hôtel Crowne Plaza du 22

au 25 juin. Le Comité local d'organisation prépare notre réunion en collaboration avec le Réseau québécois en phytoprotection qui se réunira le jour précédent. Des préparatifs sont en cours pour tenir un atelier sur l'écriture scientifique. De plus, le Comité sur les ressources génétiques et les collections de micro-organismes de la SCP (dirigée par Tom Fetch) prépare un symposium parrainé conjointement par le Comité d'experts des ressources phytogénétiques et microbiennes et le Conseil de recherches agro-alimentaires du Canada. Il y aura des présentations sur l'état des collections de micro-organismes au Canada et sur l'entretien et les aspects économiques des collections mondiales. L'activité clôturera avec une tribune de discussion sur l'importance future des collections de micro-organismes pour la santé des plantes. Surveillez notre site Web (www.cps-scp.ca) pour de prochaines annonces sur les détails et les dates de tombée.

Mises en candidature et prix de la SCP. C'est le moment de l'année pour proposer les noms de gens capables d'apporter nouvelles idées et énergie aux comités, ou de personnes qui devraient être récompensées pour leur apport à la phytopathologie et à notre Société. Ce sera la première année où nous recevrons des candidatures pour le **Prix pour accomplissements dans la lutte aux maladies des plantes de la SCP.** Ce nouveau prix a été approuvé par les membres en 2002. Le but est de reconnaître des apports importants dans le domaine de la santé des plantes au Canada de la part d'individus ou d'équipes de l'entreprise privée ou d'organismes à but non lucratif (en transfert de connaissance par exemple). Un des plus grands honneurs que l'on peut conférer à nos collègues est la reconnaissance de leur travail et de leur compétence. Prenez le temps de penser à envoyer une candidature pour un de nos prix ou postes. Pour plus d'information, communiquez avec Khalid Rashid, qui dirige le Comité des prix, ou avec Greg Boland qui dirige le Comité de mise en candidature.

Sondage auprès des membres de la SCP. Le Conseil désire connaître l'opinion des membres sur les services offerts par la Société. Il est important pour nous de conserver la satisfaction de nos membres actuels vis-à-vis le type et la qualité des services qui sont fournis. Des services qui sont appréciés peuvent inciter d'autres personnes à se joindre à notre Société. Pour juger de la situation, nous avons besoin de votre participation. S'il-vous-plaît, prenez quelques minutes pour remplir et retourner le questionnaire.

En terminant, au nom du Conseil, je souhaite de Joyeuses Fêtes à tous nos membres. Merci à chacun d'entre vous pour votre participation à la vie de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie au cours de l'année qui vient de s'écouler. Nous nous souhaitons une nouvelle année prospère et pleine de réussites.

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"Vanity, vanity, all is vanity and a striving after wind." So said Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes. He was looking back on a life and career that were marked by successes. You've heard of the "wisdom of Solomon." You may have heard of his fabulous wealth. Why then does he sound so dispirited? And why am I quoting an ancient Biblical character?

It's because I have some of those same feelings as I look back at these six years in the saddle as CPS Editor. Despite improvements and accomplishments, I am still plagued by the mistakes and failed promises which sharp eyes will find amongst these pages. Last month, in my haste, I missed the fact that the page headers on the left-facing pages were showing the wrong volume number (it *should* have read Volume 46 (3)). Reading through the minutes of the AGM, I was struck by the number of other failed promises - reports that were "going to be published in the September issue."

In this auspicious time, as we ponder what seems to be the inevitable attack on Iraq, it's tempting to sit back and ask, "What's the point?" Are the day-to-day tasks that we tackle really important in the grand scheme of things? Well, in a word, yes, they are. Solomon was not just decrying the futility of striving for fame and wealth, even wisdom. He was saying that there are important things in life that we may miss if we are caught up in pondering the "big issues." According to scholars, the book of Ecclesiastes may, in fact, have been written not by Solomon but rather by a Palestinian sage. Smart guy, anyway. Peace, my friends!

**Canadian Phytopathological Society
La Société canadienne de Phytopathologie**

**Minutes for the Annual General Meeting
Minutes Assemblée Générale Annuelle de la Société
canadienne de phytopathologie**

Waterton, Alberta June 19, 2002

There were 45 CPS members in attendance

1. Welcoming remarks from the President

Greg Boland welcomed delegates and guests. He reminded everyone of the accomplishments of CPS for the year 2001. He then outlined the general meeting agenda.

2. Moment of silence for deceased members in 2001-02.

There was a moment of silence held for Maurice Walsh.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without additions (R. Morrall, G. Lazarovits) **Carried.**

**4. Adoption of Minutes from the AGM in London Ont., June 12, 2001
(see CPS-SCP News, Sept. 2001)**

(M. Heath, D. Fernando) **Carried.**

5. Presidents's Report

Reports by G. Boland have been published throughout the year in CPS News. He stated that this was year 3 of the strategic plan and that many of the initiatives have been completed. He thanked Roger Rimmer for his contributions.

6. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

6.1 Auditor's report for KPMG - P. Sholberg presented the auditor's report. George Lazarovits asked why the income from the London meeting was not recorded. Peter Sholberg thought that it was to be reported in 2002.

(P. Sholberg, A. Tekauz) **Carried.**

6.2 Appointment of Auditors for 2002 - P. Sholberg asked that this be deferred because the Treasurer's office is being moved to Winnipeg.

(R. Rimmer moved that the membership give approval to the board to appoint an auditor; Robin Morrall seconded) **Carried.**

7. Report of the Financial Advisory Committee

R. Rimmer presented the budget (a paper copy was provided).
(R. Rimmer moved adoption of the report; B. Gossen seconded)
Carried.

8. Report on the implementation of the strategic plan

R. Rimmer reported that we have another year to address the medium term items. The five-year financial plan is difficult to do because of predicting revenues for *CJPP* and the new book. He thought that next year would be a better year to produce the 5-year plan. He will publish a report in the September issues of CPS News. He concluded that we are making progress, 75% of items have been addressed or very close to being completed. G. Lazarovits voiced a concern about expense of *CJPP* and that it may be a drain on our resources. He thought that CPS should examine the use of online issues.
(R. Rimmer moved adoption of the report; seconded by V. Higgins)
Carried.

9. Proposed By-law-changes

9.1 G. Boland presented the proposed by-law amendments that were published in the June 2002 issue of CPS News

9.2.I CPS Award for Achievements in Plant Disease Management

R. Hunt moved to amend the proposal to drop agriculture and use plant health. A. Tekauz seconded, **Carried.**
(M. Leggat moved that the amended proposal be accepted; seconded by R. Martin) **Carried.**

9.2.II Duties of the Governing Board

(R. Morrall moved for acceptance of the proposed Amendment; seconded by J. Menzies) **Carried.**

10. Approval of annual reports from committees and representatives published in the CPS News

Standing Committees

- 10.1 **Awards Committee, June 2002** - V. Higgins gave report at the banquet which will be published in the September issue of CPS News
- 10.2 **Journal Editor** - will be published in the September issue of CPS News.
- 10.3 **Membership, 2002** - G. Jespersen gave report which will be published in the September issue of CPS News.
- 10.4 **Future Meetings**, Report published in June 2002 issue of CPS News.

- 10.5 **Science Policy**, No report was submitted.
- 10.6 **Local Arrangements**, Waterton, June 2002 - L. Kawchuk noted that there were 145 participants, 21 students, 102 papers, and 168 at banquet. The committee raised \$10,000 in sponsorship, and about \$36,000 revenue, with an expenditure of about \$32,000.

Subject matter and Ad Hoc committees

- 10.7 **Information Products Marketing**, June 2002
- 10.8 **Education and Public Awareness**, June 2002* - J. Gilbert
There was no formal meeting of the committee. There has been activity in Manitoba, where the Science Teachers Association was contacted. Presentations to teachers on plant pathology have been given and very well received. An independent weekly rural newspaper may add a column on plant pathology. She asked members to send contributions to her. She also asked for new committee members. A PowerPoint presentation and poster will be on the web site.
- 10.9 **International Cooperation**, June 2002* - no report received
- 10.10 **Industry Relations Committee**, June 2002*
- 10.11 **Historical Resources**, June 2002*
- 10.12 **Microbial Genetics Resources and Culture Collection**, June 2002 - KB
- 10.13 **Workshop and Symposium**, June 2002
A. Tekauz was glad to see that the values of the awards are being increased. He thought that at future meetings, particularly the Ottawa meeting since it is the diamond jubilee of the Society, those long-standing retired members should be invited. He wondered if there was some consideration to have a long-standing member give a historical presentation at the meetings.
G. Boland described what was being planned. B. Stack suggested that we provide travel support. A. Tekauz suggested that in future years we recognize all board members at the banquet.
(Motion to accept R. Martin; K. Rashid) **Carried.**

11. Other reports

- 11.1 CPDS, June 2002 CPS News
- 11.2 CPS News, Editor, June 2002 CPS News
- 11.3 CPS Website, September 2002 CPS News
(Motion to accept R. Morrall; O. Carisse) **Carried.**

12. Report from the Resolutions Committee

Penny Pearse moved that CPS members thank the LAC, particularly L. Kawchuk, and the Financial sponsors for this year's meeting. Seconded by R. Singh. **Carried.**

- 13. Report from the Nomination Committee (CPS News, June 2002)** (R. Rimmer moved that the submitted report be adopted; seconded by J. Menzies) **Carried.**

13.1 Installation of new Members on Standing Committees

13.2 Installation of new Board Members

President Karen Bailey thanked retiring board and committee members for their work. She presented past-president G. Boland with a plaque in recognition of his service. She then outlined some of the things that would be conducted in the upcoming year, including a membership survey on quality of services CPS offers, release of *Diseases of Field Crops of Canada*, re-imaging of plant pathology, and closed by inviting everyone to next year's meeting.

14. Adjournment

Motion of adjournment (B. Gossen, K. Rashid)

Report of the Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee met on the evening of Saturday, June 15, 2002 at the Waterton Lodge Hotel. The proposed budget for 2003, the financial statements for 2001, and the current status of the Strategic Plan were discussed. A budget was presented to the Board for discussion and subsequently presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval. The budget for 2003 is presented in the current *CPS News* (next page). It is clear that the financial situation of the Society is currently very strong. The forthcoming publication of the 3rd Edition of *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada* will cost the Society in the short term, but should result in an even stronger financial situation in the future. The

short term objectives of the Strategic Plan have been met. A detailed review of the mid-term objectives of the Plan will be evaluated by the Financial Advisory Committee in 2003.

Respectfully submitted: S.R. Rimmer (Chair),
G.J. Boland, K. Bailey, R. Martin,
P.L. Sholberg, Z.K. Punja, L.M. Kawchuk,
D. Fernando, R. Howard, J.G. Menzies.

Budget for CPS 2003	Income					
	2003 budget	2002 budget	2001 budget	2001 actual	2000 budget	2000 actual
Membership Dues						
Regular/Fellow (300)	15000	14500	14500	15250	13000	14910
Sustaining (18)	4000	3000	4000	3500	4500	4225
Interest and Foreign Exchange	8000	11000	8000	11734	9000	11348
Returns from Annual Meetings	2000	2000	2000		2000	0
Miscellaneous	1000	1000	1000	1780	3500	3850
Sub-Total	30000	31500	29500	32264	32000	34333
Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology						
Membership Dues						
Regular/Fellow (300)	10500	10000	7200	7275	7500	7050
Student (35)	1225	1200	500	950	900	1000
Emeritus + CJPP (15)	525	500	200	50	200	50
Sustaining (18)	600	600	600	475	650	650
Subscriptions	30000	30000			22204	
Page charges, Reprints \$ Abstracts	25000	25000	45000	55309	45000	24991
GST					1000	
Sub-Total	67850	67300	53500	64059	55250	55945
Other Publications						
DFCC Sales 2nd Edition	30000	30000				
DFCC Sales 1st Edition		3000	10000	4930	16000	3138
DPVCC/MRCLC	2000	3000	4000	5980	4000	902
GST						
Sub-Total	32000	36000	14000	10910	20000	4040
Grand Total - Revenues	129850	134800	97000	107,233	107250	94318

Budget for CPS 2003	Expenditures					
	2003 budget	2002 budget	2001 budget	2001 actual	2000 budget	2000 actual
General Operations						
ISPP (Meeting and Dues)	2,500.00	2,500.00	800.00		1,500.00	1,511.00
CPS NEWS	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,182.00	4,000.00	4,284.00
Service Fee re: credit cards	600.00	600.00	600.00	963.00	500.00	582.00
Office expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,974.00	5,000.00	2,158.00
Travel - President	2,500.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,575.00	2,000.00	2,157.00
Travel - Board	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	13,738.00	12,000.00	12,312.00
Travel - Awardees	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,455.00	3,000.00	1,031.00
Professional Services	6,000.00	6,000.00	5,500.00	5,600.00	5,000.00	5,778.00
Annual meetings						
- local arrangements	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
- symposium publication	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	
Regional meetings	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	161.00	1,500.00	180.00
Awards - minting and framing	500.00	500.00	500.00	413.00	500.00	164.00
Support for International Meetings	3,000.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	
CPS Website	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,580.00	500.00	1,986.00
Canadian Plant Disease Survey	600.00	600.00	500.00		500.00	533.00
Committee on International Cooperation	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Miscellaneous	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,330.00	1,500.00	176.00
Sub-Total	49,200.00	48,700.00	47,900.00	39,471.00	47,500.00	33,852.00
Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology						
Electronic CJPP	5,000.00	5,000.00				
Printing, Mailing, Reprints	60,000.00	60,000.00	56,000.00	53,414.00	58,634.00	
Salaries, Translation	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	8,238.00	12,260.00	
Office Costs	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	644.00	2,000.00	
Professional Services			4,000.00			
Marketing			500.00	500.00		
GST	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00			
Sub-Total	80,000.00	80,000.00	75,500.00	62,796.00	75,500.00	72,894.00
Information Products						
DFCC 2nd Ed.						
Printing & marketing	50,000.00	100,000.00				
Mailing	1,000.00					
DFCC 1st Ed.						
Mailing	500.00	1,000.00	250.00	1,836.00	250.00	298.00
Marketing					1,000.00	65.00
GST						
CPS Directory						
Printing and Mailing	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,700.00	1,196.00	0.00	
Amortization of assets	300.00	500.00	850.00	723.00	0.00	1,033.00
Sub-Total	53,450.00	103,150.00	3,800.00	7,092.00	3,250.00	1,396.00
Strategic Plan Implementation	5,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			
Grand Total - Expenditures	187,650.00	241,850.00	137,200.00	109,359.00	126,250.00	108,142.00
Grand Total - Revenues	129,850.00	134,800.00	87,000.00	107,233.00	107,250.00	94,318.00
Difference income - expenditures	-57,800.00	-107,050.00	-50,200.00	-2,126.00	-19,000.00	-13,824.00

Call for Nominations for 2003 CPS Awards

The CPS Awards represent an important means of acknowledging the contributions of the members of the Society and related disciplines to the science of plant pathology in Canada and worldwide. The Awards Committee of CPS invites you to consider worthy candidates, discuss with your colleagues, and submit names of candidates with the required documents. A list of the previous recipients of these awards is on pages v-vi of the 2002 Membership Directory, and on the Society web page: www.cps-scp.ca. For further information on the guidelines for different Awards refer to the Society web page, or contact Dr. Khalid Rashid at 204-822-7220, email: krashid@agr.gc.ca.

AAFC, Morden Research Station, Unit 100 -
101 Route 100, Morden, Manitoba R6M 1Y5

Awards Committee members: Khalid Rashid
(Chair), Sue Boyetchko, Brent McCallum, Suha
Jabaji-Hare, and Antonet Svircev

AWARDS

The Society administers the following awards:

1. Honorary Member: Nominees can be any person who has rendered eminent service to plant pathology, and shall not be a member of the CPS.

2. Fellow: Nominees shall be regular members of the Society who have rendered outstanding service to the Society and to the profession of plant pathology.

3. Award for Outstanding Research: This is the Society's most prestigious award, and is intended to recognize outstanding research in plant pathology in Canada. Consideration is given to research involving new concepts, the discovery of new phenomena, new principles in plant pathology or novel application of existing principles.

4. Gordon J. Green Outstanding Young Scientist Award: This award is intended to recognize the contribution of a junior scientist, judged to have had a major impact on plant pathology in Canada. Nominees for this award

must be under 45 years of age throughout the calendar year in which the award is both announced and made. Nominees need not be members of the Society, nor need they be domiciled in Canada. Recipients shall be judged to have made an outstanding contribution to plant pathology in Canada on the basis, not only of demonstrated competence, but also of one or more of the following special criteria:

- a) Superior research accomplishment, either as a single contribution or as a series of associated endeavours, in plant pathology or in a related field;
- b) Meritorious contribution to plant pathology scholarship or literature, whether or not this is based upon the recipient's own original research, and whether or not it be based upon predominantly Canadian material;
- c) Unusually valuable practical application of scientific or technological expertise;
- d) Significant leadership in plant pathology.

5. Graduate Student Travel Award: This award is intended to provide outstanding graduate students in plant pathology funds to attend an Annual General Meeting and present an oral or a poster on their research work. The student must be enrolled in a Master's level or Doctoral level program in any area of plant pathology, and do not have to be a CPS member.

6. Award for Achievements in Plant Disease Management: This is a new Award initiated by the CPS Board in 2002, and is intended to recognize the contributions by industry, or not-for-profit agencies, for innovative research, development of products and technologies, and/or transfer of information for the benefit of disease management in Canada based on the combination of the following criteria:

- a) Scientific research on products and technologies used in plant pathology,
- b) Innovative solutions to problems in plant pathology,
- c) Participation in plant pathology extension,
- d) Volunteer support to the Society.

Terms of references for the Award for Achievements in Plant Disease management:

(Please refer to the CPS News 46(2):17 for further information on this New Award)

1) The nomination must be accompanied by supporting evidence to substantiate contributions as outlined in the criteria above such as a list of scientific publications, patents, product development activities, demonstration of extension, training or volunteer activities within plant pathology and up to 3 letters of references.

2) The award will be granted depending on the availability of a suitable nominee, but not more than one award shall be granted in each year. The nominees need not be members of the Society, nor need they be domiciled in Canada, but the work must clearly demonstrate benefit to agriculture in Canada. The award is open to individuals employed or contracted by industry or not-for-profit agencies to conduct research and/or extension directly resulting in improved disease management.

3) A suitably engraved plaque will be presented to the awardee (s) and the company or agency at either a national or regional meeting. In appreciation of this important contribution by industry, the company, or agency and the individual or team involved will be recognized on the CPS Website and/or the CPS Newsletter during the year the award was received.

7. Certificate of Appreciation Award: The Certificate of Appreciation shall be given to individuals who are deemed to have made significant contributions to the Society, by donating their time and effort to further the cause of the Society.

8. Best Student Presentation Awards: At the time of the annual meeting, the Awards Committee shall be responsible for selecting recipients of the Best Student Oral and/or Poster Presentations. More than one award in each category can be made in each year. The criteria governing the selection of the recipients are:

d) The primary subject matter of the presentation shall be phytopathological.

e) Candidates must be either enrolled at a university or have completed a program for a degree at a university not more than six months before the Annual Meeting. Candidates do not have to be members of the Canadian Phytopathological Society.

f) The presentations for which the students received the awards must not have been made previously in competition before another professional society.

Nomination Procedures: Send five copies of each nomination directly to Dr. Khalid Rashid, Chairperson of the Awards Committee by the end of February 2003.

For **all awards except the Students Travel and Presentation Awards**, include the following:

a) A short letter of nomination indicating why the candidate should be considered for this award,

b) A citation prepared according to the style of previously published citations in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*,

c) A recent *curriculum vitae* of the nominee.

For **Student Travel Award nomination**, application must include:

a) Abstract of the presentation (s) to be published in the *CJPP*.

b) One-page outline describing the significance of the research to be presented and its scientific, economical, and implication to the society,

c) A letter of support from the senior supervisor describing the student's research, academic abilities, and other evidence of scholarship,

d) A brief (2-page) resume of the student's background and relevant experience,

e) Academic transcripts of undergraduate and graduate training (one original copy if available).

Nominations documents for the new award **Achievements in Plant Disease Management**, should include:

- a) A letter of nominations indicating the why the candidate should be considered for this award,
- b) Evidence to substantiate contributions to the criteria of the awards; list of scientific publications, patents, products and product development activities, demonstration of extension, training or volunteer activities within plant pathology.

- c) Three letters of references supporting the nomination.

For **Student Oral/Poster Presentation Award**, please indicate your intentions to participate in student paper/poster presentations competition in your advanced registration application for the Annual General Meeting of the Society in Montreal in 2003.

Call for Nominations to the Executive and Standing Committees of CPS-SCP

Membership in committees is a good way to become more familiar with the CPS-SCP and its members, and to contribute to the aims and objectives of the society. The Nominating Committee of CPS-SCP is seeking nominations for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, and Junior Director on the Executive Board of CPS-SCP; and for positions as members on the Awards, Financial Advisory, Future Meetings, Nominating, Resolutions, and Science Policy Standing Committees of CPS-SCP; for 2003-04.

The current membership of the Executive Board and Standing Committees is available in the Directory of Members / Annuaire des Membres for 2002, or in the CPS website at www.cps-scp.ca. The responsibilities of the Executive Board and Standing Committees are outlined in the society By-Laws, which can be viewed at www.cps-scp.ca/bylaws.htm.

Nominations should be signed by at least five members of CPS-SCP and by the nominee, and must be received by the CPS-SCP Secretary before 10 February 2003, which is four months before the Annual General Meeting in June 2003.

Submitted by the Nominations Committee; G.J. Boland (Chair), Tom Hsiang, Debbie McLaren, Rick Peters, Roger Rimmer

Committee (and other) Reports

Education and Public Awareness

The committee did not meet formally in 2001-2002 and activities were mostly centred in Manitoba.

In Winnipeg we contacted the Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba and offered them a Plant Pathology "section" for teachers at their annual Study Area Groups conference. Randy Clear, Steve Haber and Jeannie Gilbert went out and spent a morning with a group of high school teachers. We received some interesting feedback and have been asked to repeat the performance this year. In preparation for the event a poster was prepared which is available for any one to download from the website, or to use as a basis for other ideas. We also included on the web page the activities that we conducted with the group last year. They will be refined in the light of experience for this coming October. We found that most teachers had very little background in plants or pathology, but those who attended were interested in further workshops.

Another area that was discussed briefly at the AGM is the new Farmers' Independent Weekly in Manitoba. The Manitoba Cooperator let go many of its best reporters as a cost-cutting measure. This group has started a new weekly. The associate editor is Laura Rance.

I discussed with Laura the idea of providing the new paper with a "Pathology Corner" (Suggestions for a good title??) in which garden problems as well as crop problems might be discussed. She was enthusiastic. I said I would advertise the call to our membership. Each article should be approximately 500 words and accompanied with a picture if possible. If you have had to deal with a problem in your garden recently, write it down, photograph it and send it to Jeannie Gilbert, please. Depending on the number we can get prepared, a pathology news item might appear every other week, or month, *etc.*

Thanks to those members of CPS who keep me informed of activities that are of interest to this committee. It seems to me that teachers need our help if plants and pathology are to gain a higher visibility in the curriculum and in the classroom. If you have an interest in this area, contact your local Science Teachers' Association and take it from there.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Gilbert

Report From Plant Canada

I am pleased to announce that the membership of Plant Canada now stands at five societies. In addition to the two founding members (the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists and the Canadian Botanical Association), the others are the Expert Committee on Weeds (soon to be known as the Canadian Weed Science Society), the Canadian Phytopathological Society, and the Canadian Society of Soil Science. These groups plan to send their Plant Canada representatives to the next meeting (St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS). The membership of the Canadian Society of Agronomy is considering joining Plant Canada, and will send two representatives (Yousef Papadopoulos and Jerry Ivany) to the Antigonish meeting before making a final decision.

Current Membership of the Plant Canada Board of Directors:

President

Carol Peterson (University of Waterloo)

Secretary

Paul Cavers (University of Western Ontario)

Representing the **Expert Committee on Weeds (ECW)**

Jerry Ivany (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Charlottetown)

Glen Sampson (Nova Scotia Agricultural College)

Alternate representatives from the ECW

Kevin McCully (New Brunswick Dept. Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture)

Paul Cavers (University of Western Ontario)

Representatives from the **Canadian Society of Soil Science**

TBA

Representatives from the **Canadian Phytopathological Society**

Richard Martin (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Charlottetown)

Roger Rimmer (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon)

Representatives from the **Canadian Botanical Association**

Liette Vasseur (St. Mary's University)

Joe Gerrath (University of Guelph)

Representatives from the **Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists**

David Gifford (University of Alberta)

Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster University)

Carol Peterson

July 19, 2002

Regional Reports

Newfoundland and Labrador

But what of news I heard someone say, of that land so far away.

In the land the Vikings found, no less in Vinland, I'll be bound.

Newfoundland by its present name, and Labrador with its mine of fame.

In the garden and in the field the crops produced their usual yield.

The trees, I note though, came to harm because the inch-worms they did swarm.

But as the leaves fell all-a-clatter, I dismissed it as an ento-matter.

No doubt you've heard in P.E.I. last year the wart they did espy.

Yes, the dreaded wart of the lowly spud, in a farmer's field down by the mud.

Much work* was done on the soily sample: a thousand cores were found quite ample.

All breathed a sigh throughout the town when not a single spore was found.

Since there's nothing further to relate, I'll sign off here until a future date

*at St. John's

M.C. Hampson, Regional Representative for Newfoundland and Labrador

Manitoba CPS regional Meeting

Dept. of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, November 21st, 2002

On November 21, 2002, more than 50 people attended the joint meeting of the Manitoba Association of Plant Biologists (MAPB) and the Manitoba region of the Canadian Phytopathological Society. Thirty-three CPS members were in attendance. The meeting was held in Winnipeg at the University of Manitoba, Department of Plant Science, in the Carolyn Sifton

Lecture Theatre.

The meeting started at 9:00 am and ended at 5:00 pm. As usual, different participants, including Philip Northover, Tracy Shinners-Carnelley, Brent McCallum, Jim Menzies, Andy Tekauz, Steve Haber, Tom Fetch, Khalid Rashid, and Jeannie Gilbert, presented the disease situation report for different crops. The text of the disease updates will be published in the upcoming issue of the Canadian Plant Disease Survey.

Seven student papers (4 by CPS students, and 3 by MAPB students) and four papers by regular members were presented. Thanks to Dr. Tracy Shinners-Carnelley, Mardi Desjardins, and Dr. Andy Tekauz who did a great job judging the four student papers by Rob Duncan, Clinton Jurke, Sharon Inch, and Colin Hiebert. Mr. Rob Duncan was designated as the winner, and Mr. Clinton Jurke as the first runner-up. This year it was decided that the four students participating with a presentation get an encouragement gift, which was a copy of the "Diseases of Field Crops in Canada" edited by the CPS. They also benefited from a free registration at the meeting. In addition, the first runner-up and the winner were awarded \$50 and \$150, respectively, that they can use towards a future meeting of their choice.

The awards also came with a commemorative plate for each winner. Titles of the winning presentations were as follows: *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* Susceptibility Period in Sunflower, by R.W. Duncan, W.G.D. Fernando and K.Y. Rashid (1st place); and Effect of seeding rates on *Sclerotinia* infection in canola, by C. Jurke and W.G.D. Fernando. Many thanks to Gary Turnbull and Richard Marsh who donated \$200 each, on behalf of Dow AgroSciences Canada and Syngenta Crop Protection Canada, respectively, to support students activities. Thanks also to the CPS members (M. Desjardins, J. Gilbert, G. Platford, and A. Tekauz) who donated a total amount of \$60 to support such activities. Finally, our thanks to the Dept. of Plant Science/Faculty of Agriculture & Food Sciences who allowed the access to the Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre and to the audio-visual facilities.



Award winners Rob Duncan (left) and Clinton Jurke (right) with supervisor Dilantha Fernando

Business

1) Karen Bailey, president of the CPS, was unable to make this meeting, but sent her regrets for not being able to attend and her best wishes through Dilantha Fernando. In her memo to the members, she conveyed her thanks to Manitoba participants to the new edition of *DFCC*, and she welcomed Dr. Lakhdar Lamari who has accepted appointment as an associate editor for the *CPS News*.

2) Tom Fetch informed the members about the Microbial Genetic Resources and Culture Collections workshop that will be held during the next CPS national meeting in Montreal in 2003.

3) At the meeting, the group passed a resolution (motion by J. Menzies, seconded by K. Rashid) stating that the Manitoba regional group would support the membership costs of a scientist from a developing country. This will apply to scientists that would not have the resources to become CPS members, and who would benefit from being a member and receiving *CJPP*. Fouad Daayf, Lakhdar Lamari, and Jim Menzies were appointed to follow up on this matter (Motion by J. Menzies, seconded by D. Fernando). An initial amount of \$80 (total) was immediately contributed by J. Menzies, T. Fetch, G. Chen, F. Daayf, L. Lamari, J. Gilbert, and K. Rashid. Tracy Shinnners-Carnelley proposed that we increase

our registration fee at the Manitoba regional meeting to raise money each year to support the membership.

4) Tracy Shinnners-Carnelley suggested that the meeting be organized during the summer or early fall, in order to let our members take advantage of a tour to field research plots in Carman. After discussion, it was agreed that this would not be preferable to many people, because their research data would not be available until early October. However, it was suggested that a field day would be an alternative and could be organized (in the summer) in addition to the regional meeting (in the fall/winter). Philip Northover is going to look into the feasibility of conducting such a tour. Many people from MAPB liked the idea and showed their interest to join.

5) It was a general feeling that the meeting format – jointly with MAPB – was a good experience, and therefore might be repeated next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Fouad Daayf

Manitoba - A Challenging Place

At the recent Manitoba regional CPS meeting, the members passed a motion stating that the Manitoba region will support the CPS membership(s) of a scientist from a developing country. This will apply to scientists who do not have the resources to become CPS members, and who would benefit from being a member and receiving *CJPP*. The membership(s) will be renewed each year for a minimum five years because it was felt that a one year membership was not sufficient support. The hat was passed and enough funds were raised to support two new memberships in the CPS. Some names of scientists who could be supported were also collected and will be considered after consulting with the Committee on International Cooperation (Dr. Myriam Fernandez, chair). The CPS members of the Manitoba region would like to challenge the membership of other regions to also support new CPS memberships.

British Columbia

The 2002 Annual Meeting of CPS-BC Region was held October 24 & 25th in Summerland, at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC), AAFC. It was a well organized meeting held in excellent and convenient facilities in a picturesque location. The meeting was opened and a welcome message to the participants was given by Dr. Joe Mazza, Acting Director, PARC. Registration began at noon and the opening occurred at 1:00 PM which meant that most participants were able to leave their home base that morning by air or ground transportation and arrive at the meeting on time.

Day 1 consisted of oral presentations covering a range of pathogens and topics including subjects such as the control of *Botrytis* stem canker of greenhouse tomato, management of blueberry anthracnose in British Columbia, characterization of cucumber necrosis virus binding sites on zoospores of its fungal vectors, characterization of dsRNA in *Chalara elegans*, and many more. The moderator of this session was Helene Sanfacon and an attempt was made to accommodate most of the student presentations so that judging of student presentations could be completed early in the meeting. The presentations were followed by a brief business meeting where greetings from the CPS Board and an update of CPS issues were given (Gayle Jespersen); and an update of the CPS journal and website was given by Zamir Punja (Chief Editor of *CJPP*). There was some discussion about the pros and cons of an electronic version of *CJPP* versus the hard copy format. Finally a venue and organizers for the 2003 CPS-BC Region meeting were identified. The 2003 meeting will be held in the lower mainland and organized by the SFU group led by Zamir Punja. The day ended with a Dinner Banquet in the PARC cafeteria with excellent food provided by an on-site catering company. Participants were also able to sample a variety wonderful wines from the area, to accompany their meals.

Day 2 of the meeting started with a mini-symposium addressing the topic, "*Blueberry scorch carlavirus* - a new threat to the British Co-

lumbia blueberry industry". This is an emerging disease that can have a devastating impact on the industry. The moderator of this symposium was Elizabeth Hudgins, BCMAFF, who gave a brief introduction to the problem and described some of her experiences and involvement in the management of this issue. There were 4 invited speakers. R.R. Martin (USDA-ARS, Oregon) gave an overview and historical perspective on the virus, different strains of the virus, different origins of infection, different symptomatology and detection techniques. L. Wegener described "Strain identification and epidemiology of *Blueberry scorch virus* in BC". D.A. Raworth addressed the issue of surveying and trapping "Aphids in blueberry fields"; and C.J. French described research aimed at understanding the "Transmission of *Blueberry scorch virus*". It was a very informative and interesting symposium, and the organizers should be congratulated for obtaining funding from CPS to assist in bringing in an expert on the virus from the USA. The symposium was followed by a poster session and then a final session of oral presentations with D'Ann Rochon as moderator.

The winners of the student presentations were Nitin Verma, Dept of Biological Sciences, SFU (1st place winner), and Kishore Kakani, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, UBC (2nd place winner).

Thanks and congratulations to Drs. D'Ann Rochon and Chris French and their colleagues for organizing an excellent regional meeting. The next meeting (2003) of the BC Region-CPS will be in the lower mainland region and organized by SFU.

Submitted by D. James, BC Regional Representative.

People and Travel

Two graduate students supervised by Dr. **Dilantha Fernando** (Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba) won first and second place in the paper competition (oral) at the Annual Canadian Phytopathological Society Regional Meeting held on 21 November 2002. **Rob Duncan** won first place for his

presentation on “Evaluating sclerotinia head rot susceptibility period in sunflower”. Rob is co-supervised by Dr. **Khalid Rashid** (Research scientist, AAFC/Morden Research Center, and Adjunct Professor, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba). **Clinton Jurke** won second place for his presentation “Effect of seeding rates on sclerotinia infection in canola.” (see photo, p. 61)

Forest Pathologists attended the 50th annual meeting of the Western International Forest Disease Work Conference (WIFDWC) which took place at Powell River, BC during the period October 07-11, 2002.



Back row - left to right: Alan Thomson - CFS/ PFC, Lea Rietman - UBC, Bart van der Kamp - UBC, Fred Peet - CFS/PFC, Alex Woods - BCMoF
 Second row - left to right: Dick Smith - Ex-CFS/PFC retired, Sue Askew - UBC , Dominique Lejour - CFS/PFC, Rich Hunt - CFS/PFC, Gary Roke - CFS/PFC, Alex Molnar - Ex-CFS/PFC retired, Kathy Lewis - UNBC, Hadrian Merler - BCMoF
 Seated row - left to right: Arezoo Zamani - CFS/PFC, Duncan Morrison - CFS/PFC, Michele Cleary - UBC, Cheryl Konoff - CFS/PFC, Simon Shamoun - CFS/PFC

Dr. **Henry Huang** was invited to attend the International Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture for Dry Areas for the 3rd Millennium, Sept 15-19, 2002, Shijiazhuang, China. There were six concurrent sessions at the meeting: Water Use Efficiency, Land and Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, Environmental Sustainability, Economics and Extension and Crop Management and Cultivar Development.

He presented a lead paper entitled “Sustainable Management of Plant Diseases in the 3rd Millennium” and co-chaired the IPM Session.

The 2nd International Barley Leaf Blight Workshop was held in April, 2002, at the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas in Aleppo Syria. There were about 80 participants from several countries attending the workshop. Invited presentations were given by **Karen Bailey** (AAFC, Saskatoon) on the Epidemiology and Management of Residue-borne Diseases: Perspectives for Semi-arid Environments and also by **Kelly Turkington** (AAFC, Lacombe) on Management of Barley Leaf Diseases in Western Canada. **Andy Tekauz** (AAFC, Winnipeg) was also present as a member of the international organizing committee. The Canadian contingent enjoyed themselves so much that they have made a bid against Denmark to host the next meeting in 2006.

Aaron Mills, Crops and Livestock Research Centre research affiliate and graduate student (H.W. (Bud) Platt, AAFC, Charlottetown, PEI) is involved with a research project on environmentally benign management treatments for potato diseases. Aaron was awarded a position on the upcoming Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE). The trip is scheduled for January 2003 and will involve a vocational placement for four weeks in the state of Karnataka in Southern India. Four people of varied backgrounds and professions were chosen for the team after a rigorous interview process. Aaron is the only PEI resident to be chosen for the trip.

The GSE program is a cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country’s institutions and ways of life and observe their own vocations as practiced abroad.

Contact: A. Mills or H.W. (Bud) Platt
MillsA@agr.gc.ca or PlattH@agr.gc.ca

DID YOU KNOW . . . ???

Rust in ancient history

Contributed by Dr. Julie Gold-Steinberg of AAFC Winnipeg

The earliest records of plant disease, found in Genesis, indicated that wheat was affected by blight, blasting, and mildew, which are now assumed to be at least, in part, due to the rust fungi. Excavations in Israel have revealed urediniospores of stem rust that have been dated at about 1300 B.C. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) writes of rust being produced by the "warm vapors" and mentions the devastation of rust and years when rust epidemics took place. The Greek philosopher Theophrastus (370-286 B. C.) was the first to write about diseases of trees, cereals, and legumes. He made the interesting observation that plant disease was more severe in low lying areas, and reported that rust was more severe on cereals than legumes. The official prayer at a Robigala ceremony, as given by Ovid (43 B.C.-17 A.D.), gives the impression that stem rust was a serious disease in Italy during that time. "Harsh Robigo, spare the sprouting grain and let the unblemished tops quiver above the ground. Let the crops, nursed by the heaven's propitious stars, grow till they are ripe for the sickle. Yours is no feeble power: the grain on which you have branded your mark the husbandman gives up for lost. Not the winds, nor the showers, nor the glistening frost that nips the fallow grain, harm it so much as when the sun warms the wet stalks; then, dread goddess, is it the hour you wreck your wrath. Spare, I pray, and take your scabby hands from off the harvest: Harm not the tilth; be it enough that you have the power to harm. Grip not the tender crops but rather grip the hard iron. Forestall the destroyer. Better that you should gnaw at swords and baneful weapons. There is no need of them: the world is at peace. Now let the rustic gear, the rakes and the hard hoe and the curved share be burnished bright; but let the rust defile the arms and when one essays to draw the sword from the scabbard let him feel it stick from long disuse. But do not profane the grain and ever may the husbandman be able to pay his vows to you in your absence."

Ceres, the Roman Goddess of agriculture (cereal grains, corn, bread), represented the earth-mother in connection with the growth of crops, and with cereal grains in particular. Part of the celebration of April 19th, Cerialia, included the ceremonial burning of the fox, in which a fox with burning grain stalks attached to its tail was let loose in the Circus Maximus. The ashes of the fox were collected and used for expiatory rites, presumably to protect the crops from robigo, or wheat rust. Cerialia is followed by Robigalia, April 25, dedicated to Robigus, the numen of wheat rust which could be appeased to avert this calamity. A dog, preferably reddish in color, was sacrificed on this day to accomplish this appeasement, because according to the Romans the dog-star Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, rising with the sun added to its heat, and the dog-days [about 3 July to 11 August] bore the combined heat of the dog-star and the sun.

Robigus could be alternately a male or female (Robigo) deity. Footraces were held on this day to honor the deity - separate races for both men and for boys. The Robigalia Festival was observed for over 1,700 years.

In the Western Church, by the 17th century, the old Roman festival of "Robigalia" together with "Terminalia", or "boundaries", had been adapted by the church as Rogation Sunday, which followed Easter, the season of resurrection. This served a practical purpose [with] processions to bless the crops and spare them from rust and mildew, and to define boundaries when there were open field systems, and not always clear lines of demarcation between the parishes.