

As a plant pathologist, I enjoy a little plant disease humor on the rare occasions when I run across some. On a recent visit to the Plant Pathology department at Cornell University while there for a workshop, I saw this fun list of

TOP TEN things PLANT PATHOLOGISTS know:

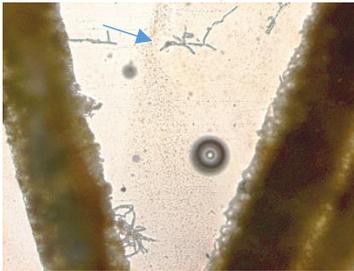
1. Nematodes are not close relatives of frogs.



Nematode (J. Allen)

American toad (National Park Service)

2. Bacterial streaming has nothing to do with downloading video files of microorganisms.



Allen photo)

Bacteria streaming (grainy looking area at arrow) from infected leaf edge. (J.

3. How to pronounce names like *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. (This is a nematode, by the way.)
4. A “Petri dish” is not a French dinner specialty.



A bacterial culture growing in a Petri dish. (J. Allen)

5. Oomycete is not something you shout when someone is sitting in your chair.



The Oomycete *Phytophthora infestans* causes late blight of tomato & potato. This is no ‘small potatoes’ disease...it was responsible for the Great Irish Potato Famine of the mid 1800s. If someone is in your chair, of course, that’s ‘Oh, my seat!’ J. Allen photo.

6. The flu isn't the only virus to be concerned about.



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Dept. of Plant Path. & Envir. Micro. Arch., Penn State, Bugwood.org

Plant viruses can cause some pretty cool symptoms such as these ringspots in Rhododendron. They're not good for the plants though.

7. There is a difference between Anthrax and Anthracnose.



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Maple anthracnose (Paul Bachi, Univ. of KY Res.& Educ. Ctr., Bugwood.org)

Anthrax is a potentially serious disease of humans & some animals. Anthracnose is a common name for a group of plant diseases. It usually affects the leaves and sometimes causes shoot or branch dieback.

8. Tar spot outbreaks have nothing to do with the highway department.



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Tar spot, a fungal disease of maple. Don't worry, it's not serious.

A.Kunca, National Forest Centre - Slovakia, Bugwood.org

9. Rust does more than corrode cars.



Rust on an old VW Bug (my favorite car) from [www.asergeev.com](http://www.asergeev.com), cedar-apple rust gall on eastern red-cedar (J. Allen), and brownish orange spore pustules on hollyhock (<http://hort.uwex.edu>).

10. Smut can be found in places other than the adult book store.

I can't, of course, show adult book store smut here, but I can show you some corn smut. This is a culinary delicacy in Mexico. (They don't call it smut when it's for that purpose though.)



<https://media-cdn.tripadvisor.com>

J. Allen