

WIDNER, J. N.<sup>1</sup>, G. C. WISLER<sup>2</sup>, J. E. DUFFUS<sup>2</sup>, H. Y. LIU<sup>2</sup>, and J. L. SEARS<sup>2</sup>,  
<sup>1</sup>Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, E. HWY 212, P.O. Box 500,  
Renville, MN 56284, and <sup>2</sup>USDA-ARS, 1636 E. Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93905.  
A new report of Rhizomania and other furoviruses infecting sugar beet in  
Minnesota: part I. field observations.

Several sugar beet fields in the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative growing area showed patches of unusual pale greenish-yellow foliage in early August that did not resemble other known disorders. The roots from these areas showed various degrees of sprangling, stunting, and proliferation of feeder roots. Serological evaluations of suspect roots showed positive infection of Rhizomania, caused by the beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV) and other furoviruses. The distribution of infected fields was not isolated to any general area, which indicates that the virus has been present and multiplying in previous sugar beet crops. Severity of infection ranged from mild symptoms with near normal yields and sugar content to moderate to severe root stunting and low sugar content.