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yard/garden
radio briefs

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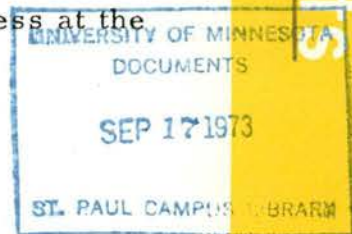
Tomato Plants

(0:32)

A British plant disease specialist says common garden tomato plants actually dissolve one of the world's most destructive fungi. Called Verticillium albo-atrum (vur-te-sill-i-em al-bow-ā-trem), the fungus attacks about 300 important food and fiber crops.

George Pegg says tomatoes have two natural enzymes that dissolve the fungus cell walls. He calls this a "whole new concept in plant disease resistance." A faculty member at Wye College, Kent, England, the scientist spoke to a recent international plant pathology congress at the University of Minnesota.

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Plant Doctors

(0:28)

A University of Minnesota plant pathologist says we need plant doctors to care for sick plants, just as veterinarians and doctors care for animals and humans.

Francis Wood says "many homeowners get plant care information, including pesticide use, from hardware and nursery store personnel. These people may not have adequate training. Wood emphasizes, "We can't have people recommending pesticide usage when they may not know what they're doing."

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