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Key: Meeting  Journal  Funder  Dissertation **Public Release: 14-Mar-2010** Nature Biotechnology**New defenses deployed against plant diseases**

An international team led by scientists at the Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich, UK, have transferred broad spectrum resistance against some important plant diseases across different plant families. This breakthrough provides a new way to produce crops with sustainable resistance to economically important diseases.

 Two Blades, Gatsby Charitable Foundation

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[Norwich BioScience Institutes](#)**Public Release: 12-Mar-2010** International Journal of Phycology**AgriLife scientists do groundwork for genetic mapping of algae biofuel species**

Using green algae to produce hydrocarbon oil for biofuel production is nothing new; nature has been doing so for hundreds of millions of years, according to a Texas AgriLife Research scientist.

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[Texas A&M AgriLife Communications](#)**Public Release: 12-Mar-2010****The use of cover crops in vineyards can help control the yield and quality of grapes and wine**

Correct management of soil and irrigation is a vital factor in modern viticulture, due to the influence of the water balance of the vineyard on wine quality and the environmental impact of agricultural practices on vineyard soils.

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[Elhuyar Fundazioa](#)**Public Release: 11-Mar-2010****Scientists at UCSB discover 600-million-year-old origins of vision**

By studying the hydra, a member of an ancient group of sea creatures that is still flourishing, scientists at UC Santa Barbara have made a discovery in understanding the origins of human vision. The finding is published in this week's issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, a British journal of biology.

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Proceedings of the Royal Society B

Why female moths are big and beautiful

In most animal species, males and females show obvious differences in body size. But how can this be, given that both sexes share the same genes governing their growth? University of Arizona entomologists studied this conundrum in moths and found clues that had been overlooked by previous efforts to explain this mystery of nature.

★ National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Science

Boost ivory trade monitoring and enforcement before allowing one-off sales: UBC researcher

Recent petitions from several African nations to "downlist" the conservation status of elephants should be denied because no adequate monitoring of the impact of ivory sales or enforcement of the ivory trade exists, according to recommendations published today by an international group of researchers including UBC zoologist Rene Beyers.

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

ARS sends third seed shipment to Norway seed vault

A shipment of seed sent by the Agricultural Research Service earlier this month to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway included a wild Russian strawberry that an expeditionary team braved bears and volcanoes to collect.

★ Agricultural Research Service

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ BioScience

More maize ethanol may boost greenhouse gas emissions

Mandated increases in the production of maize-derived ethanol will lead to land-use changes that boost carbon dioxide emissions enough to make the fuel a worse environmental option than burning gasoline, according to an analysis published in the March issue of BioScience. The new analysis refines the conclusion of a controversial estimate that was published by Timothy Searchinger and colleagues in 2008.

★ California Air Resources Board, Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Foundation, National Science Foundation

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog's site fidelity may lead to further decline

No longer found in 90 percent of its previously occupied habitat, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is further threatened by cumulative impacts of a changing climate, introduced non-native trout and site fidelity habits, hampering the breeding success of this imperiled frog. USDA FS Pacific Southwest Research Station research underscores the need to incorporate the site fidelity habits of this frog when designing restoration strategies for its continued existence.

★ US Department of Agriculture FS Pacific Southwest Research Station

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Environmental Science & Technology

NoMix toilets get thumbs-up in 7 European countries

People in seven European countries have positive attitudes toward a new eco-friendly toilet that could substantially reduce pollution problems and conserve water and nutrients, scientists in Switzerland are reporting. Their article, which calls on authorities to give wider support for the innovative toilet technology, is in ACS' Environmental Science & Technology, a semimonthly journal.

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

Plant hormone increases cotton yields in drought conditions

A naturally occurring class of plant hormones called cytokinins has been found to help increase cotton yields during drought conditions.

★ Agricultural Research Service

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Nature

Scientists solve puzzle of chickens that are half male and half female

A puzzle that has baffled scientists for centuries -- why some birds appear to be male on one side of the body and female on the other -- has been solved by researchers. The research, which involved studying rare naturally occurring chickens with white (male) plumage on one side and brown (female) plumage on the other, sheds new light on the sexual development of birds.

★ Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

✚ AACR Dead Sea International Conference on Advances in Cancer Research

Seaweed extract may hold promise for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma treatment

Seaweed extract may eventually emerge as a lymphoma treatment, according to laboratory research presented at the second AACR Dead Sea International Conference on Advances in Cancer Research.

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Public Release: 9-Mar-2010

■ New Phytologist

Plants discover the benefits of good neighbors in strategy against herbivores

Scandinavian Scientists have discovered that a species of tree defends itself from herbivore attack by using chemicals emitted by neighboring plants. The study, published today in New Phytologist, reveals how species of Birch tree absorb chemical compounds from neighboring Marsh tea plants, *Rhododendron tomentosum*, in a unique "defense by neighbor strategy."

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Public Release: 8-Mar-2010

Americans want Uncle Sam's help putting healthy foods on their dinner

table

Americans recognize things need to change in the grocery aisle, and they support Uncle Sam's efforts to overhaul what is included in their food and on the packages. The majority also believe they are individually responsible for making the right food choices to avoid obesity, but will readily accept the government's help to be successful, according to a new survey by FoodMinds.

☀ FoodMinds, LLC

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Public Release: 8-Mar-2010**Geraniums could help control devastating Japanese beetle**

Geraniums may hold the key to controlling the devastating Japanese beetle, which feeds on nearly 300 plant species and costs the ornamental plant industry \$450 million in damage each year, according to scientists with the Agricultural Research Service.

☀ Agricultural Research Service, US Department of Agriculture

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Public Release: 8-Mar-2010

📖 Nature

Asexual plant reproduction may seed new approach for agriculture

An HHMI scientist has moved a step closer to turning sexually reproducing plants into asexual reproducers, a finding that could have profound implications for agriculture.

☀ Howard Hughes Medical Institute

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Public Release: 8-Mar-2010

📖 Limnology & Oceanography

Deep sedimentation of acantharian cysts -- a reproductive strategy?

Spore-like reproductive cysts of enigmatic organisms called acantharians rapidly sink from surface waters to the deep ocean in certain regions, according to new research. Scientists suspect that this is part of an extraordinary reproductive strategy, which allows juveniles to exploit a seasonal food bonanza.

☀ Natural Environment Research Council

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Public Release: 8-Mar-2010

📖 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Seafarers' scourge provides hope for biofuel future

For centuries, seafarers were plagued by wood-eating gribble that destroyed their ships, and these creatures continue to wreak damage on wooden piers and docks in coastal communities. But new research by scientists at the BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre at the universities of York and Portsmouth is uncovering how the tiny marine isopod digests could hold the key to converting wood and straw into liquid biofuels.

☀ Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

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Public Release: 8-Mar-2010

📖 Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior

Farm-to-school programs motivate school food service professionals

With economical constraints interfering with schools to provide children with increased amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables, a study in the March/April issue of the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior examines how farm-to-school programs have the potential to improve children's

diets by providing locally grown produce without burdening the school's finances.

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Public Release: 7-Mar-2010

■ Nature

CSHL-Mexican team coaxes sexually reproducing plant to brink of asexual reproduction

In a paper to appear online in Nature February 7, plant geneticists at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico report moving a step closer to the goal of turning plants that normally reproduce sexually into asexual reproducers, an outcome that would have profound implications for agriculture globally.

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Public Release: 5-Mar-2010

Healing native rangeland may require combination of burning and rotational grazing

The application of summer patch burning to heal native rangeland may be best accomplished using rotational grazing, according to a Texas AgriLife Research range ecologist. Dr. Richard Teague recently completed a study of native rangeland vegetation and soils subjected to summer patch burns followed by cattle being allowed to graze either continuously or using a rotational grazing system.

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Public Release: 5-Mar-2010

Bovine respiratory disease

Oklahoma State University scientists and practitioners are riding herd on one of the most challenging concerns of the cattle industry: bovine respiratory disease. BRD causes between \$800 million to \$900 million annually in economic losses from animal death, reduced feed efficiency and antimicrobial treatment costs.

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Public Release: 5-Mar-2010

■ Planta Medica

Exploring Echinacea's enigmatic origins

An Agricultural Research Service scientist is helping to sort through the jumbled genetics of Echinacea, the coneflower known for its blossoms -- and its potential for treating infections, inflammation and other human ailments.

★ Agricultural Research Service

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Public Release: 5-Mar-2010

Whetting Singapore's thirst for rice

Singaporeans consume around 275,000 tons of rice each year, which requires 688 billion liters of water to be produced -- 2.5 times Singapore's annual domestic water use.

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