

ELICITORS OF DEFENSE RESPONSES IN PLANTS

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Elicitors are classified as biotic or abiotic, depending on their origin and molecular structure. Biotic elicitors includes both substances of pathogen origin (exogenous elicitors) and compounds released from plants by the action of the pathogen (endogenous elicitors). Elicitors may also be divided into two groups, “general elicitors” and “race specific elicitors”. While general elicitors are non-specific and able to trigger defense both in host and nonhost plants, race specific elicitors induce defense responses leading to disease resistance only in specific host cultivars. Elicitors act as signal compounds at low concentrations, providing information for the plant to trigger defense response against pathogens. Depending on their efficacy, these compounds can be used in fields either alone or in combination with fungicides.