

1. To understand the genetic control of plant growth it is required to look at multiple traits that include direct measurements of growth as well as traits that affect growth (this thesis).
2. Although plant growth is considered a complex trait, this does not arise from the predictable effects of its shared genetic basis with flowering time but instead from the remaining growth-specific genetic basis. (this thesis)
3. Ignorance towards preservation of genetic diversity is an underestimated threat because of the almost infinite combinatorial possibilities it provides for crop improvement.
4. The value of a 1001 genome like project for several important crop species would outweigh the value of it for *Arabidopsis thaliana* (“The 1001 genomes project for *Arabidopsis thaliana*.” Weigel and Mott, 2009; *Genome Biol.* 10:107, epub).
5. If the danger in swine-flu is the possible re-assortment of its genome with lethal bird-flu strains then this should deserve more attention by both the scientific community and the media.
6. Mobile phone conversations in public were already considered a nuisance by many but it can only get worse when the world’s largest real-life soap becomes a fact with the imminent introduction of the video phone.

Propositions belonging to the thesis

“The genetic and molecular basis of natural variation for plant growth and related traits in *Arabidopsis thaliana*”

Bjorn Pieper  
Wageningen, 12 October 2009