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Plant defence against *Verticillium* wilt disease through RNA silencing

RNA silencing is the regulation of gene expression based on the accumulation of sequence-specific small RNAs (sRNAs) that target messenger RNAs (mRNAs) resulting in their degradation. Several

genes controlling RNA silencing in plants have been identified. The plant RNA silencing pathway has previously been shown to mediate plant immunity against viruses and bacteria. We are using the model plant *Arabidopsis* as a host of *Verticillium* to unravel the role of RNA silencing in *Verticillium* wilt disease.