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Plant pathologist Carl Strausbaugh evaluates a fungal culture of *Rhizoctonia solani*. Story begins on page 18.

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Cover: ARS plant/soil scientist Gary Bañuelos and horticulturist Gabriella Romano survey fruit on prickly pear cacti, *Opuntia ficus-indica,* at the ARS San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center in Parlier, California. Story begins on page 12. Photo by Stephen Ausmus. (D2351-16)