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Modification of canopy structure with plant growth regulators and consequences for disease incidence and yield

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The experimental triazole growth retardants BAS11100W (BASF Aktiengesellschaft) and UK140 (Bayer AG) modified canopy structure, reduced disease incidence and significantly increased yield in winter oilseed rape cv Jet Neuf in experiments at Long Ashton Research Station in 1985. Treatment at the beginning of stem extension reduced canopy depth but increased density by increasing the num-

ber of branches and pods. Later treatment reduced canopy depth and density by shortening branch lengths. Yields increased by up to 39 % as a result of these treatments and may in part be due to enhanced photosynthetic activity as a consequence of changes in crop architecture. Investigation into the mechanisms underlying the increases in yield are under continuing investigation.

Effect of triazole retardant on plant structure at late flowering

