

ABOUT THE COVER:

The color-enhanced scanning electron micrograph shows the water mold *Pythium ultimum* (blue) and the bacterium *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (pink). *P. ultimum* is a eukaryotic plant pathogen that causes root rot; it also weakens or kills plant seeds, a condition called damping off. *P. fluorescens*, a Gram-negative rod common in soil, can inhibit growth of *Pythium* species, thereby protecting the plant from disease.

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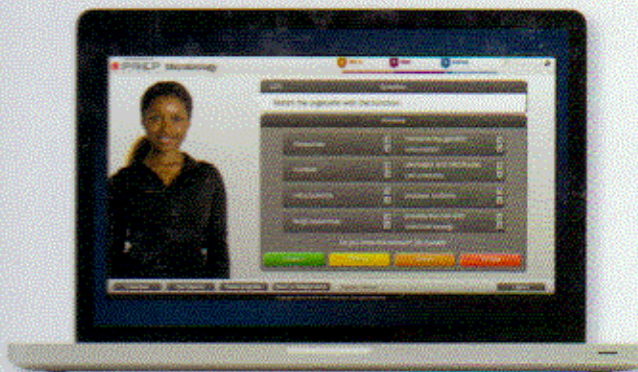
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