

Solution for the watermelon hyperhydricity during tissue culture and generation of multiple pathogen resistance in trans

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ABSTRACT

Watermelon is an important economically fruit in tropic and subtropic areas. Virus and fungal diseases often cause serious economic loss of watermelon, however there are still no chemicals for prevention the virus damage. Watermelon silver mottle virus (WSMoV), Zucchini yellow mosaic virus (ZYMV), Papaya ringspot virus type W (PRSV-W) and fungal disease damage the cucurbits. So far, by convential breeding, this is no watermelon variety confers multiple disease resistance. Hyperhydricity is a severe problem in tissue culture watermelon, resulting lower multiplication rate, necrosis, and poor quality shoots. In our results, Murashige and Skoog (MS) salts containing Schenk and Hildebrandt (SH), vitamins and thimeine-HCl reduced the hyperhydric rate. Moreover, the WSMoV, ZYMV, PRSV-W viral CP gene and a chitinase genes (CHI) for against Rhizoctonia solani were transferred into watermelon via Agrobacterium-mediated transformation. The individual transgenic watermelons were obtained and inoculated with R. solani in vitro. The transgenic lines expressing CHI-ZW gene had a better level of resistance than single CP lines that expressed CpCHI gene. There transgenic lines were analyzed by PCR and Southern blot for confirming the inserting of transgenes. When the transgenic lines were inoculated with ZYMV, and PRSV-W and R. solani respectivity, the results showed different levels of resistance for the two viruses and the fungus, including immunity. Western blot analysis indicated that the transgenic lines express chitinase protein in different levels and that a high level of chitinase expression in transgenic plants confers higher levels resistance to the fungal pathogen. Our results indicated that the construture combing gene silencing and gene expression can confer viral and fungal resistance in the some time.

Keywords : WSMoV、ZYMV、PRSV-W、chitinase、coat protein

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