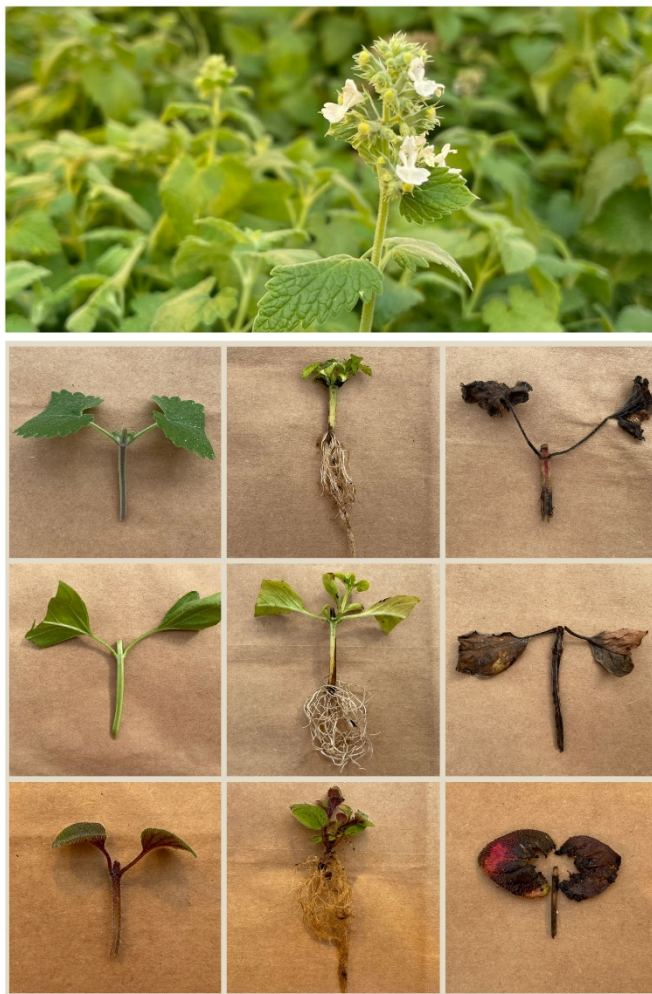


About the cover



Top row: Catnip cv. 'CR9' (*Nepeta cataria* L.) mother plant at flowering stage; second row from top: catnip stem cutting, rooted cutting control, necrosed cutting treated with 'CR9' catnip essential oil (EO); third row from top: basil (*Ocimum basilicum* L.) stem cutting, rooted cutting control, necrosed cutting treated with 'CR9' catnip EO; fourth row from top: oregano (*Origanum vulgare* L.) stem cutting, rooted cutting control, necrosed cutting treated with 'CR9' catnip EO. Pictures: Kirsten A. Allen and Erik Nunes Gomes.

The catnip plant (*Nepeta cataria* L.) is mainly recognized by its characteristic effects on cats and more recently has been shown to be one of the most effective natural plant-based insect repellents. However, the complexity of ecological interactions that shaped catnip's chemistry makes it a versatile factory of natural products with multiple potential applications. In this issue, researchers from the New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products Program (NUANPP) at Rutgers University report, for the first time, that the essential oil of *Nepeta cataria* has a strong inhibitory effect on the adventitious rooting of stem cuttings from cultivated Lamiaceae species, including catnip itself, and discuss the potential of using this natural product as an alternative herbicide in the future.