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The electronic form of this issue, available as of December 11, 2007, at www.plantphysiol.org, is considered the journal of record.

On the Cover: The cover of this *Focus Issue* devoted to the Vector Systems for Plant Research and Biotechnology depicts stylized plasmid molecules with single and multiple genes of interest or fluorescent markers of different colors. These vectors are shown against the background of a confocal scanning laser micrograph of a tobacco leaf that visualizes chloroplast autofluorescence (blue signal) and the cell nuclei that accumulated of the transgenically expressed DsRed2 fluorescent marker fused to the VIP1 nuclear protein (red signal). This issue highlights novel systems for multiple gene expression, protein tagging, induction, and suppression of gene silencing, specialized vectors for monocot transformation, and virus-based vectors. Importantly, special emphasis is made on simplicity of use and applicability of the system to a wide range of model plants and crop species. Cover design by Tzvi Tzfira (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Stanislav V. Kozlovsky (Moscow State University, Russia), and Vitaly Citovsky (State University of New York, Stony Brook). Confocal images were taken at the confocal microscopy facility of the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan.

FOCUS ISSUE ON VECTOR SYSTEMS FOR PLANT RESEARCH AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

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