Bioenergy Research Projects

Endophytic yeasts are adapted to the plant sugars and phytochemicals, potentially making them better equipped for fermentation of plant biomass to useful biochemical. Endophytic yeast strains isolated from poplar trees were able to ferment both hexoses and pentoses, an ability that traditional brewer’s yeast is lacking. The endophytes were resistant to common inhibitors of fermentation.

Undergraduate researchers have isolated more promising endophytic yeast strains that have yet to be characterized fully.

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