

The present invention relates generally to at least one epichloae fungal endophyte strain which when combined with at least one species of *Secale* spp. confers at least some level of pest protection on the *Secale* spp. plant. In particular the invention relates to an isolated strain of epichloae fungal endophyte selected from the group consisting of AR3039 (NRRL# 50716), AR3046 (NRRL# 50576), AR3049 (NRRL#50577), AR3050 (NRRL# 50578), AR3064 (NRRL# 50718), AR3067 (NRRL# 50719), AR3068 (NRRL# 50720), AR3073 (NRRL# 50721), AR3074 (NRRL# 50722), AR3076 (NRRL# 50723) \pm AR3078 (NRRL# 50724), and combinations thereof, to a *Secale* spp. plant infected with a fungal endophyte wherein *Secale* spp. is not a natural host of the endophyte, to a method of making a stable host plant/epichloae fungal endophyte combination, to a method of conferring at least some level of pest protection on a host *Secale* spp. plant, and to a *Secale* spp. seed infected with an epichloae fungal endophyte.