

CORN FOLIAR DISEASES

1 TAR SPOT 2 GRAY LEAF SPOT 3 CURVULARIA LEAF SPOT 4 NORTHERN CORN LEAF BLIGHT 5 DIPLODIA LEAF STREAK

1 TAR SPOT (Phyllachora maydis)

Lesion Appearance

Small, raised, black spots scattered across the upper and lower leaf surfaces.

Distinguishing Characteristics

First observed in the lower to mid canopy. Predominately found on leaves, but also can be found on stalks and husks. Lesions cannot be scratched off.

2 GRAY LEAF SPOT (Cercospora zeae-maydis)

Lesion Appearance

Narrow, rectangular, initially light tan turning gray with sporulation.

Distinguishing Characteristics

First observed in the lower canopy and progresses upward during the season. Lesions restricted by leaf veins can grow together.

3 CURVULARIA LEAF SPOT (Curvularia lunata)

Lesion Appearance

Small, tan-colored lesions with brown margins surrounded by chlorotic halos.

Distinguishing Characteristics

First observed in mid to upper canopy. Lesions initially resemble gray leaf spot, but remain small and circular with notable halo when backlit.

4 NORTHERN CORN LEAF BLIGHT (Exserohilum turcicum)

Lesion Appearance

Elliptical, gray green turning pale gray or tan with sporulation.

Distinguishing Characteristics

First observed in the lower to mid canopy. Cigar shaped lesions can grow together.

5 DIPLODIA LEAF STREAK (Stenocarpella macrospora)

Lesion Appearance

Small, dark brown-to-tan lesions with central concentric rings expanding in length to form elliptical streaks with chlorotic halos and black pycnidia in the center.

Distinguishing Characteristics

First observed in the lower to mid canopy. Can resemble northern corn leaf blight, but will have black pycnidia in the center of older lesions.



Developed by Alyssa Koehler and Maddle Henrickson, University of Delaware. Artwork by Keaton Hewitt, Iowa State University. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ©2023 by the Crop Protection Network. All rights reserved.