



Anthracnose Top Dieback



*Alison Robertson, Bugwood.org*

Bacterial Leaf Streak



*Tamra Jackson-Ziems, Bugwood.org*

## Anthracnose

Anthracnose is a fungal disease that can attack the plant at various growth stages. It can appear as a leaf blight early then as a stalk rot later in the season. "Top dieback" is another symptom that is easily visible from a distance. The stalk rot can cause severe lodging resulting in reduced yields and can create challenges from a harvesting standpoint.

Anthracnose Stalk Rot



*Gary Munkvold, Bugwood.org*

## Bacterial Leaf Streak

Bacterial leaf streak is a relatively new disease in North America, found primarily in Nebraska and more recently in Colorado, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas. The pathogen survives in corn residue and can be further disseminated by irrigation and wind-driven rain. There is no known resistance in commercially available corn hybrids.

Common Rust



*Alison Robertson, Bugwood.org*

## Common Rust

Common rust is just that...very common. It is found nearly everywhere corn is grown although it is almost never economically damaging in field corn. Hot, dry weather tends to diminish the proliferation of the disease.

## Fusarium Stalk Rot

Fusarium overwinters in the soil and in crop residue. The disease is favored by dry early conditions followed by abundant rainfall mid-season. Excessive plant populations should be avoided in fields known to have fusarium issues. Hail, wind or insect damage can create a more favorable environment for the disease to proliferate.

Fusarium Stalk Rot



*Alison Robertson, Bugwood.org*

## Goss' Wilt

Originally considered a Nebraska disease, Goss' wilt is now also found in Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Goss' wilt is a bacterial disease that survives in crop residue. Crop rotation and resistant hybrids are the best ways to control the severity of the disease.

Goss' Wilt



*Emmanuel Byamukama, South Dakota State University, Bugwood.org*

## Gray Leaf Spot

Gray leaf spot is the most widespread economically damaging disease found in corn. The fungus overwinters on corn residue and the spores are splashed onto the lower leaves early in the season gradually moving up the plant. While tillage may be moderately effective its not always practical. Crop rotation and fungicides can effectively control the severity of the disease.

Gray Leaf Spot



*Daren Mueller, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org*

## Northern Corn Leaf Blight

Similar to gray leaf spot, northern corn leaf blight is a fungal disease that overwinters in crop residue and moves up through the canopy. However, northern corn leaf blight prefers cooler conditions and tends to be more severe later in the growing season. Lesions are typically one to six inches in length.

Northern Corn Leaf Blight



*Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org*

## Southern Rust

Southern rust has become more widespread and problematic in recent years, starting in the South and being windblown to the North later in the season. Southern rust, unlike common rust, thrives in hot conditions. Another key differentiation is that Southern rust will rub off onto clothing creating an orange or rust-colored stain. Fungicides are the most effective tool for managing Southern rust.

Southern Rust



*Travis Faske, University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture, Bugwood.org*

## Tar Spot

Tar spot has burst onto the scene in recent years after being discovered in 2015 in Illinois and Indiana. It has steadily progressed South and West each year since. Tar spot thrives in cool, humid conditions with long periods of leaf wetness. The primary symptom is small, raised, circular black spots on the corn leaf. Tar spot can initially be confused with common or Southern rusts, but tar spot lesions do not rub off like rust. Left untreated tar spot can cause catastrophic yield losses but is effectively managed through the use of fungicides. Multiple fungicide treatments may be required.

Tar Spot



*Bayer CropSciences employees*