Agronomy Profile



Anthracnose Leaf Blight

Overview

Anthracnose leaf blight (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) in corn can be a problem for susceptible hybrids. It can even be seen occasionally in resistant plants. Its symptoms are similar to those of other foliar diseases.

What you should know

- Anthracnose leaf blight overwinters in corn residue, so continuous or no-till corn increases the risk of disease.
- Anthracnose leaf blight favors high temperatures and prolonged wet or humid weather. It is spread by wind and splashing rain.
- Symptoms begin on lower corn leaves early in the growing season and then develop on the upper leaves late in the season. Anthracnose leaf blight is most likely to infect at the seedling phase and at full maturity of corn, but not typically mid-season.
- Anthracnose leaf blight first presents as water-soaked, oval lesions with tan centers and reddish-brown borders. Lesions can enlarge up to 5 inches to 6 inches long and may join to blight the entire leaf, causing it to die late in the growing season. Dark, raised spots (fruiting bodies) and spines that protrude from the leaf can appear on dead tissue.
- Yield reductions occur with significant leaf death within the first six weeks after tasseling. Poor soil fertility can increase risk due to plant stress.

Action steps

- 1. **Choose resistant hybrids:** Select hybrids that are resistant to both leaf blight and stalk rot.
- 2. **Reduce risk with management practices:** Crop rotation and tillage help reduce corn residue, lessening the primary source of anthracnose leaf blight risk. Maintaining good soil fertility can also be helpful.

https://extension.umn.edu/corn-pest-management/anthracnose-leaf-blight-corn https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/fieldcroppathology/files/2010/09/Corn_Foliar_Disease_Cards.pdf

Anthracnose leaf blight lesions can enlarge to 5-6 inches and can blight the entire leaf.



- Anthracnose leaf blight can mimic the signs of other foliar diseases.
- Anthracnose leaf blight thrives in wet weather and can be spread by storm conditions such as wind and rain.
- · Lesions can grow to blight entire leaves.
- Resistant hybrids and good crop management practices can reduce risk.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



www.nutechseed.com 1-888-647-3478