Agronomy Profile



Eyespot

Overview

Eyespot is a fungus that overwinters in corn residue. Tiny eye-like lesions can grow to damage large areas of leaf tissue. High levels of eyespot can result in yield reduction.

What you should know

- Eyespot is a fungus called Aureobasidium zeae.
- Eyespot overwinters in corn residue, so practices such as no-till and continuous corn can increase the risk of eyespot.
- Eyespot favors cool temperatures and humid, wet conditions. The fungus can be disseminated by splashing rain.
- Eyespot develops as a tan spot surrounded by a brown to purple ring and narrow yellow halo.
- The first eyespot lesions can occur as early as V3/V4 stage. The spots can be scattered on leaves, but often appear in patches and can join together to form large necrotic areas.
- Spores are produced within the eyespot lesions and can result in additional infection and disease.
- In severe epidemics lesions can grow together, damaging large areas of tissue. High disease levels can result in yield loss.

Action steps

- 1. **Reduce the amount of residue:** Crop rotation and tillage can decrease the risk of disease.
- Evaluate whether fungicides are appropriate: Fungicide applications can reduce disease and protect yield, but can be cost-prohibitive unless used on high-value corn. Use fungicides only if you have a history of disease in your field and practice reduced tillage.

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

For more information, contact:



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Tan lesions with a brown or purple ring and a yellow halo resemble an eye, giving eyespot its name.



- Eyespot is a fungus that produces lesions on corn leaves that resemble eyes.
- Eyespot thrives in cool, wet conditions and spores can be spread by rain splash.
- Management strategies include using tolerant corn hybrids, crop rotation and tillage to reduce residue.

NOTES: