



Goss's Wilt

Overview

Goss's wilt (*Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *nebraskensis*) is a bacterial disease that affects corn plants. Goss's wilt has been prevalent in areas of the Western Corn Belt for decades and has expanded in recent years to additional areas of the Central and Eastern Corn Belt.

What you should know

- Goss's wilt infection can occur at any time during the corn growing season. If Goss's wilt infections occur during key crop development early in the growing season, yield potential could be reduced by up to 50%.
- Seedling plants that are infected will have a slimy residue on the leaves. Larger plants will have oblong lesions with wavy margins and dark green to black "freckles."
- Goss's wilt bacteria require an "entry point" to infect a corn plant. Crop injury from hail, wind, insects or even heavy rain can allow bacteria to enter. Humid, wet weather is another risk factor, because wet or moist leaves can allow infection to spread.
- Goss's wilt bacteria can overwinter in residue and can survive on the soil surface for one year. Because it is a bacterial disease, it cannot be treated with fungicides.

Action steps

1. **Reduce residue:** Rotate crops and utilize tillage to bury residue and reduce the probability of infection. Infected fields should be tilled or harvested last to prevent infected material from spreading to uninfected fields.
2. **Select appropriate hybrids:** The best way to control the disease is to plant hybrids with strong Goss's wilt tolerance.



Signs of Goss's wilt in corn include slimy residue, oblong lesions with wavy margins and dark "freckles."



30-Second Summary

- Goss's wilt is a bacterial disease that affects corn plants.
- Goss's wilt infection can occur at any time during the corn growing season.
- Goss's wilt infection can reduce yields by up to 50%.
- Planting Goss's wilt-tolerant hybrids and reducing corn residue are the best ways to control Goss's wilt.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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