

Frogeye Leaf Spot

Overview

Frogeye leaf spot is caused by the fungus *Cercospora sojina*. It has long been a problem for southern soybean growers and is increasingly impacting central Corn Belt growers as well. Frogeye leaf spot usually infects soybean plants in hot and moist conditions, and is a major threat to yield.

What you should know

- Frogeye leaf spot poses a significant threat to yield potential and seed quality. Infected seeds germinate poorly and surviving seedlings can be severely weakened. Severe cases can cause premature leaf drop and yield loss.
- Indiana, Illinois and Iowa have been particularly affected due to weather patterns.
- Lesions on leaves appear as yellow-colored and circular in shape. They become more reddish-gray with age, lengthening to 1/4 inch. The lesions are irregularly shaped and can be mistaken for herbicide damage. Hair-like spores eventually appear on the underside of infected leaves.
- Frogeye leaf spot fungus can survive in infected seed and plant residue. It multiplies in warm, wet, humid conditions. Spores can blow from field to field and be transported by rain throughout the growing season. Infections are most common after the initiation of R1 flowering stage.

Action steps

1. **Consider fungicides:** Fungicide seed treatments help reduce infection risk and disease severity when the fungicide is applied after growth stage R1.
2. **Practice effective crop management:** Tillage can incorporate residue and fungal residues that could overwinter on the soil surface. Rotating crops can help reduce inoculum levels and potential disease exposure.
3. **Select resistant hybrids:** Plant high-quality seed and choose hybrids with resistance to frogeye leaf spot for protection from the time of planting.



Frogeye leaf spot lesions can often be mistaken for herbicide damage.



30-Second Summary

- Frogeye leaf spot is a problem in the south and becoming more frequent in the central Corn Belt.
- Spores spread easily and can survive in plant residue.
- Fungicides and careful crop management can help reduce disease exposure.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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