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Northern Corn Leaf Blight



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Disease Facts

Northern corn leaf blight caused by the fungus *Exserohilum turcicum* is a common leaf blight found in New York.

If lesions begin early (before silking), crop loss can result. Late infections may have less of an impact on yield.

Northern corn leaf blight is favored by wet humid cool weather typically found later in the growing season.

Spores of the fungus that causes this disease can be transported by wind long distances from infected fields.

Spread within and between fields locally also relies on wind blown spores.

Management Strategies

Northern corn leaf blight can be managed through the use of resistant hybrids.

Additionally, timely planting can be useful for avoiding conditions that favor the disease.

Symptoms

The tan lesions of northern corn leaf blight are slender and oblong tapering at the ends ranging in size between 1 to 6 inches.

Lesions run parallel to the leaf margins beginning on the lower leaves and moving up the plant.

Lesions may coalesce and cover the entire leaf.

Spores are produced on the underside of the leaf below the lesions giving the appearance of a dusty green fuzz.



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Efficacy of fungicides for corn disease control based on appropriate application timing*

| Fungicide(s) | | | | Anthracnose leaf blight | Common rust | Eyespot | Gray leaf spot | Northern leaf blight | Southern rust | Harvest Restriction ² |
|---------------------------|--|---|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Class | Active ingredient (%) | Product/Trade name | Rate/A (fl oz) | | | | | | | |
| QoI Strobilurins Group 11 | azoxystrobin 22.9% | Quadris 2.08 SC Multiple Generics | 6.0 - 15.5 | VG | E | VG | E | G | G | 7 days |
| | pyraclostrobin 23.6%, 23.3% | Headline 2.09 EC/SC | 6.0 - 12.0 | VG | E | E | E | VG | E | 7 days |
| DMI Triazoles Group 3 | propiconazole 41.8% | Tilt 3.6 EC Multiple Generics | 2.0 - 4.0 | NL | VG | E | G | G | G | 30 days |
| | prothioconazole 41.0% | Proline 480 SC | 5.7 | -- | VG | E | -- | VG | G | 14 days |
| | tetraconazole 20.5% | Domark 230ME Multiple Generics | 4.0 - 6.0 | -- | -- | -- | E | -- | G | R3 (milk) |
| Mixed mode of action | azoxystrobin 13.5% propiconazole 11.7% | Quilt Xcel 2.2 SE Aframe Plus 2.2 SE | 10.5 - 14.0 | VG | VG-E | VG-E | E | VG | VG | 30 days |
| | cyproconazole 7.71% picoxystrobin 17.94% | Aproach Prima 2.34 SC ^{3,4} | 3.4 - 6.8 | -- | -- | -- | E | VG | VG | 30 days |
| | pyraclostrobin 13.6% metconazole 5.1% | Headline AMP 1.68 SC | 10.0 - 14.4 | -- | E | E | E | VG | VG | 20 days |
| | pyraclostrobin 28.58% fluoxaproxad 14.33% | Priaxor 4.17SC ^{3,4} | 4.0 - 8.0 | -- | VG | -- | VG | -- | G | 21 days |
| | tetraconazole 7.48% azoxystrobin 9.35% | Affiance SC | 10.0 - 17.0 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 7 days |
| | trifloxystrobin 32.3% prothioconazole 10.8% | Stratego YLD 4.18 SC ⁵ | 4.0 - 5.0 | VG | E | VG | E | VG | VG | 30 days |

*This information was adapted for New York by Gary C. Bergstrom, Cornell University, from information developed by the Corn Disease Working Group (CDWG) on fungicide efficacy for control of major corn diseases in the United States. Efficacy ratings for each fungicide listed in the table were determined by field-testing the materials over multiple years and locations by the members of the committee. Efficacy ratings are based upon level of disease control achieved by product, and are not necessarily reflective of yield increases obtained from product application. Efficacy depends upon proper application timing, rate, and application method to achieve optimum effectiveness of the fungicide as determined by labeled instructions and overall level of disease in the field at the time of application. Differences in efficacy among fungicide products were determined by direct comparisons among products in field tests and are based on a single application of the labeled rate as listed in the table. Table includes systemic fungicides available that have been tested over multiple years and locations. The table is not intended to be a list of all labeled products¹. Efficacy categories: NR=Not Recommended; P=Poor; F=Fair; G=Good; VG=Very Good; E=Excellent; NL = Not Labeled for use against this disease; -- = Insufficient data to make statement about efficacy of this product for this disease. Many products have specific use restrictions about the amount of active ingredient that can be applied within a period of time or the amount of sequential applications that can occur. Please read and follow all specific use restrictions prior to fungicide use. This information is provided only as a guide. It is the responsibility of the pesticide applicator by law to read and follow all current label directions. Reference to products in this publication is not intended to be an endorsement to the exclusion of others that may be similar. Persons using such products assume responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer. Members or participants in the CDWG assume no liability resulting from the use of these products.

¹Additional fungicides are labeled for disease on corn, including contact fungicides such as chlorothalonil. Certain fungicides may be available for diseases not listed in the table, including Gibberella and Fusarium ear rot. Applications of Proline 480 SC for use on ear rots requires a FIFRA Section 2(ee) and is only approved for use in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

²Harvest restrictions are listed for field corn harvested for grain. Restrictions may vary for other types of corn (sweet, seed or popcorn, etc.), and corn for other uses such as forage or fodder.

³No application is allowed on Long Island.

⁴No aerial application not allowed within 100 feet of surface waters.

⁵Aerial application is not allowed in New York.