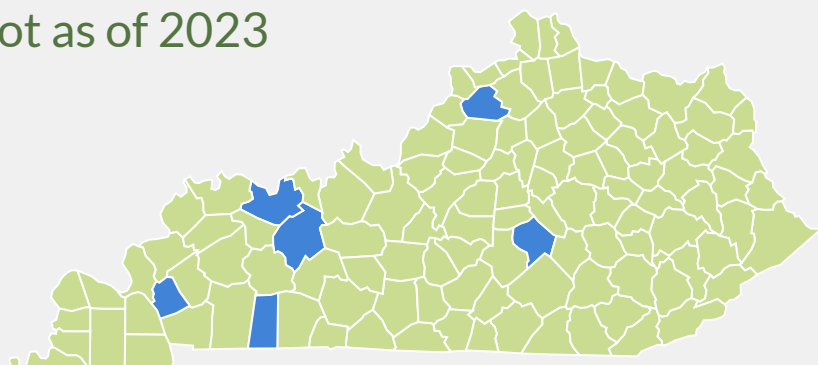


Tar spot

Facts about the disease in Kentucky

- Tar spot, caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*, is an important corn disease in the northern corn belt
- It was first confirmed in Kentucky in 2021. Blue counties on the map indicate confirmed tar spot as of 2023



- So far, the disease has only been observed in September, always too late to impact yield in Kentucky

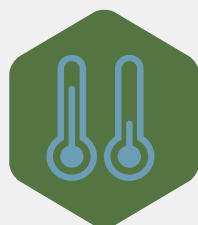
New research has determined optimal conditions for tar spot development



Tar spot can develop rapidly when temperatures average 64-73° F over 30 days or more. Temperatures above 73° F slow tar spot development



Tar spot is **inhibited** by high relative humidity (over 90%) and extended periods of moisture



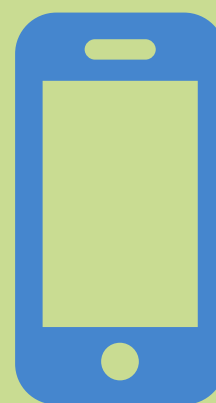
The optimal weather conditions for tar spot development are not often present during the growing season in Kentucky, but we continue to monitor and learn about the disease in our environment



Tar spot signs include raised, black fungal structures on the leaf tissue

Fungicides applied at tasseling/silking (VT/R1) in Kentucky for other foliar diseases like southern rust, will also manage tar spot if needed

If you think you have tar spot:



- ☐ Call your County Agent! They know the steps to get an accurate diagnosis
- ☐ Reporting the disease helps us monitor impact

For more information see: Webster et al., 2023. Tar Spot Prediction in Corn: The Weather Matters. Crop Protection Network. doi.org/10.31274/cob-20231220-1

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