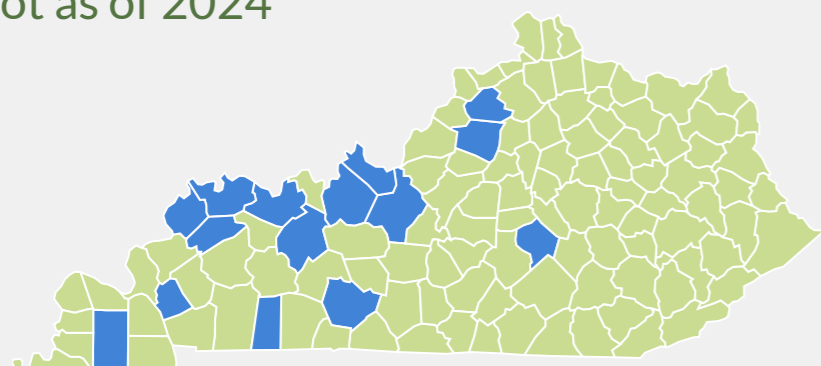


# Tar spot

## 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 2024



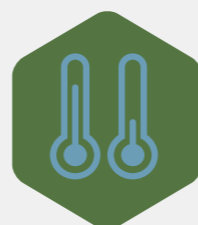
- The disease has not yet impacted yield in Kentucky, but detection is critical



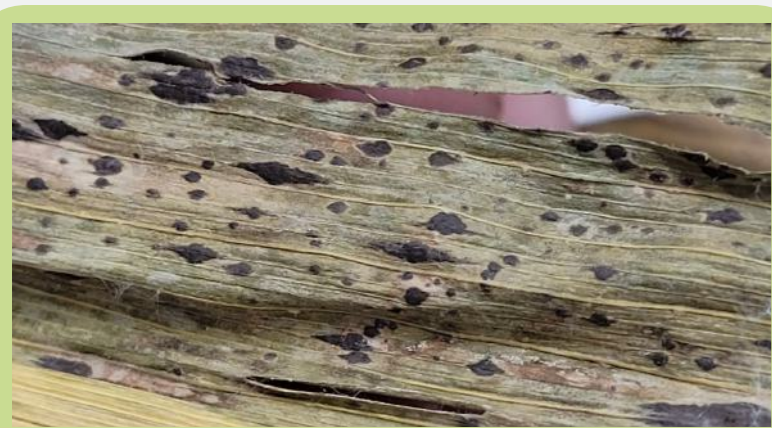
Tar spot develops rapidly when temperatures average 64-73° F over 30 days or more. Temperatures above 73° F slow tar spot development. Tar spot is slow to develop when relative humidity is high (over 90%)



Symptoms and signs of tar spot may not appear for several weeks after infection



Fungicide applications to manage tar spot should occur between tasseling silking (VT-R1) through milk stage (R3). Late applications (R5 or dent) are not needed for tar spot management in Kentucky



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

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