

Goss's wilt found in Illinois

DEKALB, Ill. — As if the hot and lack of rainfall didn't pose enough of a problem for Illinois corn growers, now a disease new to the state has been found in

some Henry County corn fields.

Nebraska bacterial wilt and leaf freckles, commonly known as Goss's wilt, was discovered just weeks ago in a number of Henry County corn fields. This is the first time the disease has been detected in Illinois.

Goss's wilt was first identified in Nebraska in 1969 and spread slowly into parts of Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota and Iowa.

In fact, an Iowa State University release claims that the disease has been detected in several locations in eastern Iowa this summer.

According to David Smith,

corn research pathologist for DeKalb AgResearch, Inc., the spread of Goss's wilt is sporadic in nature, although the bacterium causing Goss's wilt is known to overwinter in corn residue.

Smith, who has traveled to Henry County to diagnose and confirm the existence of Goss's wilt in Illinois, says there is a sharp hybrid-to-hybrid difference in field reaction to the disease.

"There are various levels of hybrid resistance and susceptibility to Goss's wilt," Smith points out. He adds that DeKalb began conducting resistance work to the disease in 1971 in Nebraska and Colorado, and

that most of the hybrids marketed by DeKalb in the area carry good levels of resistance.

Smith says that Goss's wilt can actually cause damage at any phase of plant growth.

"Generally, warm temperatures and some type of mechanical injury to the plant, such as hail or wind storms, aid in the infection of plants," the pathologist notes.

The most characteristic symptom is dark green or black spots along the edges of leaf lesions. Yellow to gray streaks appear parallel to leaf veins, and these grow together and die, causing scorched areas. Close in-

section may show a slimy film on the leaves.

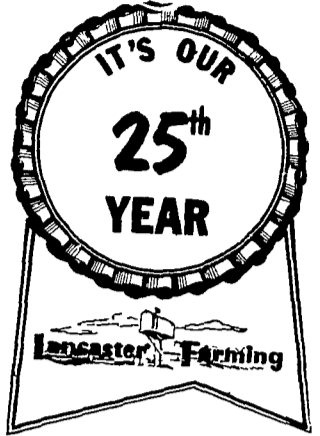
Once the bacterium is present in an area, Goss's wilt may or may not occur in following years, "but the potential definitely exists," Smith says.

According to the corn disease specialist, the disease can strike young plants if appropriate conditions exist, and a corn crop can be drastically affected.

"Henry County farmers escaped that level of infection this year," Smith says, "but in the fields I observed, it did appear as if there will be some level of economic damage."

The pathologist suggests that as a strong precautionary move, farmers in affected areas ask

their seed dealers to recommend resistant hybrids, and that they utilize care not to spread the disease by cutting infected specimens and removing them from the field without following proper procedure.



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(Continued from Page C38)

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Jane	9-3	273	20,264	3 7	758
Boots	2-8	305	18,656	3 6	673
Esta	2-8	305	18,462	4 0	731
Hemlock Meadow Farm					
Princess	5-6	305	23,058	3 8	874
Betty	4 7	305	18,674	3 6	679
Mark M Wehr					
2	5-4	305	20,692	3 6	742
Wood Ann Farms					
Kelly	3 10	305	23,564	3 7	874
Mervin B Nissley					
19	5-3	305	18,991	3 5	657
84	4-6	305	17,918	3 8	684
94	3-3	289	18,258	4 3	788
Melvin K Stoltzfus					
Girl	8 1	305	18,935	3 6	678
Bonny	7-2	305	22,832	3 7	834
Segis	8-3	305	17,399	4 2	734
Bess	7 7	305	22,759	3 5	800
Mina	4 0	305	25,474	3 2	825
Aaron R Zimmerman					
Miriam	5-9	305	16,835	4 7	796
Irene	4-0	305	17,931	4 0	710
Ben Martin					
37	7-9	305	17,232	3 8	663
8	7-9	305	19,013	3 4	654
1	3-4	305	19,776	3 4	665
Joe E Miller					
6	7-0	305	18,797	3 7	694
19	8-4	305	19,724	3 6	705
62	5-4	305	19,498	3 4	663
Ben S Yoder					
Maple	7-6	303	21,414	3 4	723
Elaine	3-0	299	17,955	3 6	652
Wilmer E Zook					
Sally	4-6	305	21,572	3 6	772
U S Pententary Farm					
46	2-10	305	14,663	4 5	653
Paul R Smith					
11	8-5	305	20,077	3 9	784
22	6-5	195	16,625	4 1	682
24	4-3	305	18,196	3 6	662
Daniel Z Stoltzfus					
Queen	6-5	305	21,964	3 6	784
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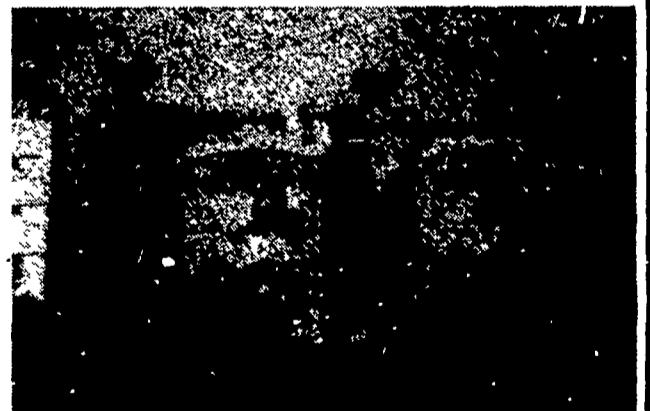


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