

The symptoms of nitrogen deficiency are inverted yellow "Vs" on the lower leaves.

Late Season Corn Diseases

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An important part of comproduction is evaluating your crop and making the appropriate management changes in the following season. Being able to assess some common late season com diseases will help in making management changes for next year.

Items that should be considered for disease management include tillage, hybrid selec-

tion, and early harvest of affected fields. Three of the most common corn leaf diseases you may encounter include gray leaf spot, northern leaf blight, and northern leaf spot. Another common late season problem that could be confused with a disease is nitrogen deficiency.

The symptoms of gray leaf spot are gray, rectangular lesions that are restricted by the leaf veins. An individual lesion



resembles a paper match. Control measures include rotation, tillage, and planting resistant hybrids. Most severe cases occur in fields of continuous, no-till corn where air drainage is poor. Fields along creeks and rivers are particularly vulnerable to gray leaf spot because of the extended periods of dew.

Northern leaf blight is found throughout Pennsylvania and is characterized by long boat shaped, grayish-green to tan lesions. Lesions first appear on lower leaves, progressing to upper leaves over time. A few years ago, the incidence and severity of this disease increased with the new race of the pathogen. Higher levels of genetic resistance to the new race have been incorporated into many new hybrids, so in the last few years, disease caused losses have been limited. Potentially, however, this disease can result in yield losses. Avoiding inoculum by rotation or tillage, along with planting resistant hybrids, are the best methods of avoiding this disease.

Northern leaf spot (also called Helminthsporium leaf

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Northern leaf spot is identified by these chainlike lesions on the leaves.

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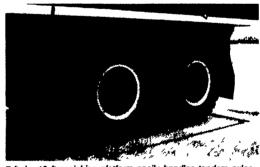
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7 ft. by 10 ft. weighing platform easily handles tandem axles.

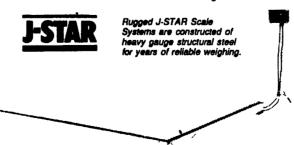
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