

WANTED: Corn Tar Spot Samples

We are collecting corn tar spot samples and we need your help! Tar spot of corn is a new corn disease first identified in the United States in 2015 in Illinois and Indiana. It has since been confirmed in Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Florida.



What to look for: Small, black, raised spots (circular or oval) develop on infected plants, and may appear on one or both sides of the leaves, leaf sheaths, and husks. Spots may be found on both healthy (green) and dying (brown) tissue. Often, the black spots are surrounded by a tan or brown halo; this is especially obvious on healthy leaves.

We need samples of corn infected with tar spot from across the United States as part of a new research project investigating the variability of populations of the corn tar spot pathogen. If you have (or think you have) corn tar spot, please collect several leaves showing the symptoms and send them with the form below.

Please wrap the leaves in newspaper or dry paper towels and ship in a large envelope. Please ship early in the week. If you are sending samples from multiple locations please label them and provide the information below for each one (if possible). Receiving samples from the United States and U.S. territories is allowed by our permits.

We appreciate your help with this research project. If you have any questions, please contact Diane at dplewa@illinois.edu or 217-333-0519.

Mail to: Diane Plewa c/o U of IL Plant Clinic, S-417 Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana IL 61801

Corn Tar Spot Survey 2018

Date Collected _____ Field Zip Code or County, State _____
Type of Corn (if known) _____ Crop Last Year _____

Have you seen these symptoms in this field in previous years? Yes No If yes, which year(s)? 2017 2016 2015

Have any fungicides been applied to the field this year? If yes, please list the brands, rates, and application dates:

How many plants in the field are displaying symptoms? (choose one) Few Some Many Most All

Name _____ Phone No. _____ Email _____

Thank you!

Pictures: University of Illinois Plant Clinic and University of Illinois Extension