



# Cercospora Leaf Blight and Purple Seed Stain in Soybean

Written by: Madeline Henrickson and Dr. Alyssa K. Betts

October 2024

## IPest Background

- Cercospora leaf blight and purple seed stain are caused by the fungus *Cercospora kikuchii*.
- This is a widespread disease, but yield loss is rarely observed.
- Presence of Cercospora leaf blight, does not guarantee purple seed stain, even though they are caused by the same organism.

## Identification

- Foliar symptoms begin in the upper canopy on leaves exposed to the sun.
- Symptomatic leaves are purple to bronze and may become leathery (Fig 1).
- Discoloration from purple seed stain can be on small spots or the entire seed (Fig 2).



*Fig 1: Cercospora leaf blight symptoms on soybean leaves. Photo by Dr. Alyssa K. Betts*



*Fig 2: Soybeans with purple seed stain. Photo by Dr. Alyssa K. Betts*

## Management

- Varieties with resistance to *Cercospora* leaf blight are available.
- Fungicides are registered for use on *Cercospora*, but are not usually needed.
- Purple seed stain may result in dockage or denial of seed certification, but does not reduce yield.

## References

Crop Protection Network (2022, Jan 27). *Cercospora* Leaf Blight of Soybean. Retrieved from: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/encyclopedia/cercospora-leaf-blight-of-soybean>

Crop Protection Network (2022, Jan 27). Purple Seed Stain of Soybean. Retrieved from: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/encyclopedia/purple-seed-stain-of-soybean>

*This information is brought to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources — a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*