



Physoderma Brown Spot

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

October 2024

Pest Background

- Physoderma brown spot is caused by the fungal pathogen *Physoderma maydis*.
- Infection occurs in the leaf whorl when water has been present for an extended, warm period.
- Disease is limited and does not typically cause economic loss in the Mid-Atlantic.

Identification

- Symptoms occur on mid-canopy leaves.
- Lesions occur on the stalks and midrib. They are dark purple to black in color (Figs 1-3).
- Banding of numerous yellowish-brown lesions across leaves can also be present (Figs 2-3).



Fig 2: Physoderma brown spot lesions and lesion banding near and inside the whorl. Photo by M. Henrickson



Fig 3: Septoria brown spot lesions and lesion banding on the leaf surface. Photo by Dr. Alyssa Betts



Fig 1: Physoderma brown spot lesions on corn stalks and leaves. Photo by M. Henrickson

Management

- Cultural practices like tillage and crop rotation can decrease inoculum load.
- Resistant hybrids are available to combat *Physoderma* brown spot.
- Fungicides are labeled for management, but this disease rarely reduces yield and should not require treatment.

References

Crop Protection Network . (2022, January 27). Retrieved from Physoderma Brown Spot of Corn: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/encyclopedia/physoderma-brown-spot-of-corn>

Authors: Madeline Henrickson and Dr. Alyssa Betts

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.