

GREENE GAZETTE NEWSLETTER

21 JULY 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Where Pickles Come From

- What it Takes for a Cucumber to be a Pickle

Corn Diseases

- Gray Leaf Spot
- Northern Corn Leaf Blight
- Physoderma Brown Spot
- Goss's Bacterial Wilt and Leaf Blight

Tassel Wrapping

- An Unusual Growth Issue
- Continued Scouting

Weather Update

- Higher Rainfall
- Persisting Hot Temperatures

Tar Spot Update

- Tar Spot Found
- Tar Watch

WHERE PICKLES COME FROM



How are cucumbers graded? How do growers measure yield? And why does cucumber size affect profitability?

In this field discussion, Hartung Brothers walks through the grading process used in commercial cucumber production, explains how yield per acre is calculated, and discusses how different cucumber sizes contribute to crop value.

How Farmers Measure Cucumber Yield Per Acre

YouTube - Greene Crop Consulting

SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO



BEYOND TAR SPOT: 4 OTHER CORN DISEASES EVERY FARMER SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH:



Gray Leaf Spot

Why it Matters: One of the most economically important fungal diseases of corn. Severe infections before grain fill can reduce yields by 20–40% under favorable conditions

What to look for:

- Long, rectangular gray to tan lesions
- Lesions run parallel with leaf veins
- Usually begins on lower leaves and moves upward

Favorable Conditions:

- Warm temperatures (70–90°F)
- High humidity
- Extended periods of leaf wetness

Management

- Rotate crops and manage residue. Consider a fungicide if disease reaches the ear leaf and weather stays favorable.

Source: Gray Leaf Spot-Purdue Extension

Goss's Bacterial Wilt & Leaf Blight

Why it Matters: Goss's Wilt can cause significant yield losses in susceptible hybrids, especially following hail or other injury.

What to look for:

- Large gray to tan lesions
- Dark green to black water-soaked margins
- Small dark "freckles" inside lesions (a key identifying feature)
- Shiny bacterial exudate may be visible under humid conditions

Favorable Conditions:

- Hail, wind, or other leaf injury
- Warm temperatures
- Wind-driven rain

Management

- Rotate crops and manage residue. Fungicides will not control this disease because it is caused by bacteria.



Goss's Bacterial Wilt and Blight- Crop Protection Network



Physoderma Brown Spot

Why it Matters: This disease usually causes minimal yield loss but can lead to node rot, increasing the risk of stalk breakage.

What to look for:

- Tiny yellow to brown spots arranged in bands across leaves
- Dark purple to black spots on the midrib
- Dark discoloration on lower stalk nodes

Favorable Conditions:

- Frequent rainfall
- Standing water during early vegetative growth (V5-V9)
- Wind-driven sandblasting injury

Management

- Rotate crops and reduce corn residue to help prevent future infections.

Source: Physoderma Brown spot- Crop Protection Network

Northern Corn Leaf Blight

Why it Matters: Northern Corn Leaf Blight (NCLB) is one of Indiana's most common foliar diseases. Severe infections before or during grain fill can reduce photosynthesis and lower yield.

What to look for:

- Long, cigar-shaped gray to tan lesions (1-6 inches)
- Lesions start on lower leaves and move upward
- Dark gray fungal spores may develop on lesions during humid weather

Favorable Conditions:

- Cool to moderate temperatures (64-81°F)
- Frequent rainfall, heavy dew, or prolonged leaf wetness
- Continuous corn and infected crop residue

Management

- Rotate crops and manage residue. Consider a fungicide if disease develops before or around tasseling.

Source: Northern Corn Leaf Blight- Purdue Extension



TASSEL WRAPPING

Across Indiana, some corn fields are showing an unusual growth issue known as tassel wrapping, where the uppermost leaves remain tightly rolled around the developing tassel instead of allowing it to emerge normally. This condition can delay tassel emergence and interfere with the critical timing between pollen shed and silk emergence, which is necessary for successful pollination and kernel development.



Although the exact cause of tassel wrapping is still being investigated, Purdue Extension researchers believe several factors may contribute, including rapid temperature changes, periods of high humidity, rapid plant growth, and hybrid genetics. Fields experiencing stressful or unusual growing conditions during the V14 to VT growth stages may be more likely to show symptoms. Some hybrids may also be more prone to developing wrapped tassels than others.

The primary concern with tassel wrapping is the potential impact on pollination. If pollen is not released at the same time that silks are receptive, kernels may fail to develop, resulting in reduced ear fill and possible yield loss. However, the presence of wrapped tassels does not automatically mean a field will experience significant damage. Many affected plants are still able to successfully pollinate once the tassel emerges.

Farmers should scout affected fields closely over the next several weeks. Check ears for signs of successful pollination by examining kernel set and looking for missing kernels or silks that remain attached to the cob. Recording the hybrids, field conditions, and severity of symptoms can also provide valuable information for future management decisions.

Currently, there are no in-season management practices or treatments available to correct tassel wrapping. The best approach is continued scouting, monitoring ear development, and documenting affected areas.

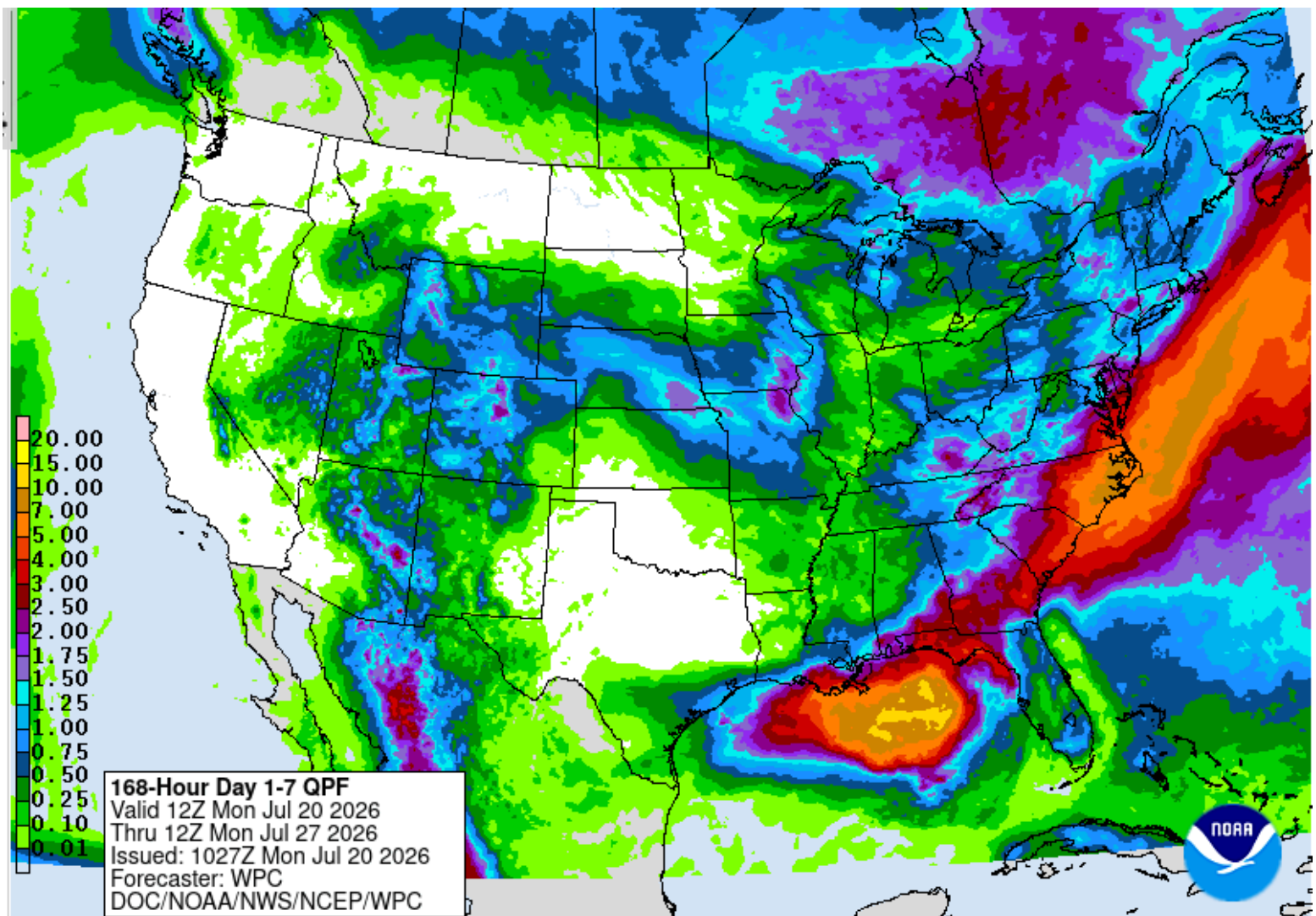
Understanding when and where tassel wrapping occurs will help researchers and farmers better manage this issue in future growing seasons.



WEATHER UPDATE

We are expecting higher rainfall totals this week compared to last week as moisture from the recent tropical system moved through the region on Sunday.

Hot temperatures will persist, with scattered pop-up showers and thunderstorms developing throughout the week.



Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

Home Page

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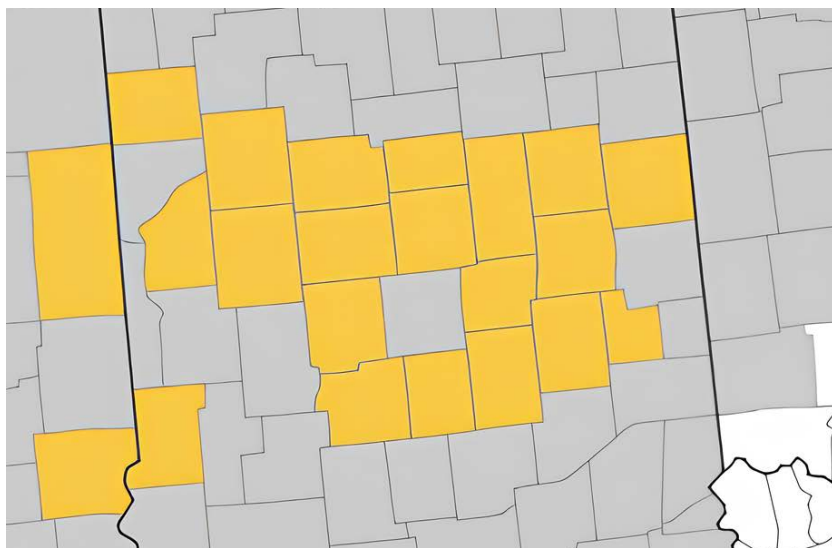


TAR SPOT UPDATE

TAR SPOT HAS BEEN FOUND IN JOHNSON AND SHELBY COUNTY.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

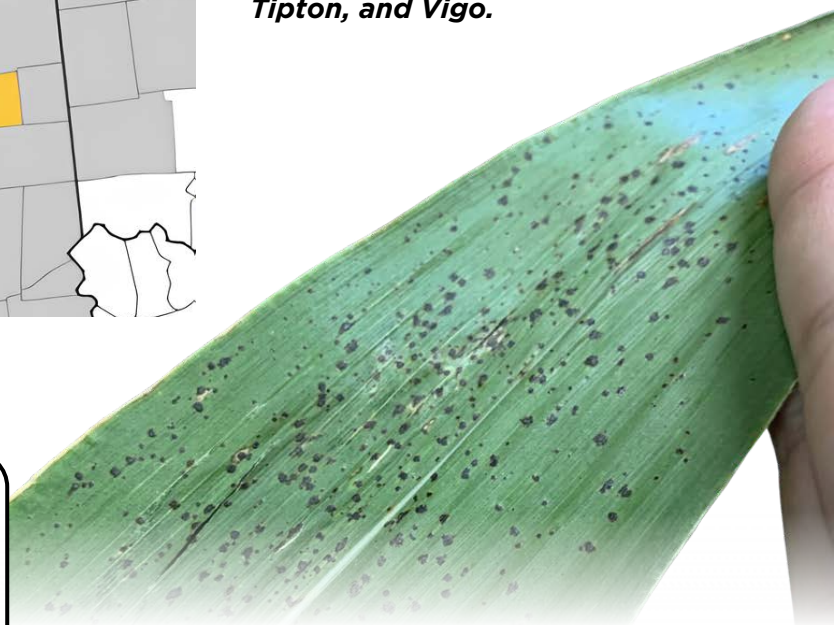
- 01** Small, raised black spots (stromata) on corn leaves that resemble flecks of tar.
- 02** Spots cannot be rubbed off like insect frass or dirt.
- 03** Initial infections are often found in the lower canopy before moving upward.



As well as: Benton, Boone, Clinton, Delaware, Fayette, Fountain, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Lake, Madison, Montgomery, Morgan, Randolph, Rush, Tippecanoe, Tipton, and Vigo.

FUNGICIDE TIMING MATTERS

Research from Indiana indicates the best window for a single fungicide application is typically between VT (tasseling) and R3 (milk stage). Applications made too early may not provide season-long protection, while applications made after disease becomes established in the upper canopy often provide limited benefit.



First Tar Spot Detection Confirmed in Indiana for 2026:

Tips, Tools, and Management Strategies to Stay Ahead of this Disease in Corn

Indiana Field Crop Pathology

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



TAR WATCH



GREENE CROP CONSULTING OFFERS INTENSIVE TAR SPOT SCOUTING. YOU WILL RECEIVE WEEKLY TAR SPOT SCOUTING SERVICES, 5 WEEKS OF TEXT UPDATES, A DISEASE SEVERITY RATING AND FUNGICIDE TIMING ALERTS!



Tar Watch vs Regular Scouting Timeline:

Tar Watch —○

Regular
Scouting —□



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NEWSLETTER**

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