

GREENE GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER

3 AUGUST 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Weather Update

- Additional Moisture Expected

Southern Rust vs Common Rust

- Found in Greene County Indiana
- Appearance, Environmental Preferences, and Management

Phytophthora Root and Stem Rot

- Infections Can Persist Throughout the Growing Season
- Appearance, Environmental Preferences, and Management

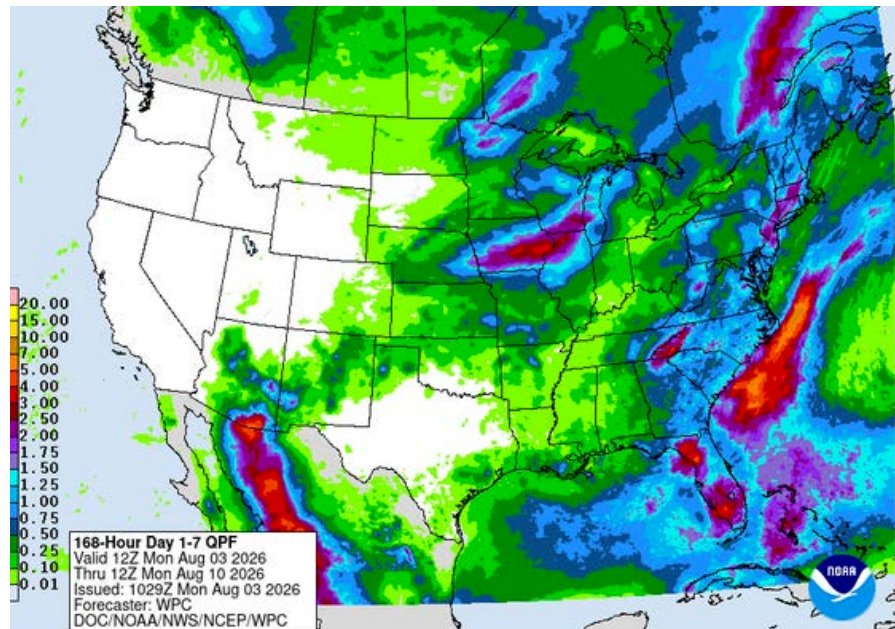
Sidehill Seeps

- Yellow Spots in Fields Caused by Hydrology

Tar Spot Update

- What to Watch For
- Counties Affected

WEATHER UPDATE



In Johnson County, yesterday's storm delivered 1.46 inches of much-needed rainfall. Looking ahead this week, the forecast calls for the chance of scattered pop-up showers later this week, which could provide additional moisture.

Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

Home Page

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



SOUTHERN RUST VS COMMON RUST

Southern Rust has officially been found in Greene County Indiana as of 7/27. Southern Rust and Common Rust can look similar at first glance, but knowing which disease is present is important. Southern Rust can develop much more rapidly and has a greater potential to reduce yield if it arrives before grain fill. Both diseases occur in Indiana, but they differ in appearance, environmental preferences, and management.



SOUTHERN RUST

Why It Matters:

Southern Rust is generally the more damaging of the two rust diseases. If it arrives early enough in the season, it can spread rapidly and significantly reduce yield by limiting photosynthesis. In Indiana, it does not overwinter and typically arrives on wind currents from southern regions.

What To Look For:

- Small, circular to oval orange to tan pustules
- Spores occur almost exclusively on the upper leaf surface and are densely clustered
- Yellow (chlorotic) spots may appear on the underside of the leaf beneath pustules

Favorable Conditions:

- Warm temperatures (around 77–82°F)
- High humidity
- Extended periods of leaf wetness

Management:

Scout fields regularly, especially from tasseling through grain fill. Fungicides can be effective when applied before severe disease develops.

Source: [Common and Southern Rust- Purdue Extension](#)

COMMON RUST

Why It Matters:

Common Rust is found at low levels in most Indiana cornfields every year. While it can occasionally become severe in susceptible hybrids, it generally causes much less yield loss than Southern Rust.

What To Look For:

- Brick red to brown pustules
- Longer, more elongated shape
- Spores occur on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces and are more scattered across the leaf than Southern Rust

Favorable Conditions:

- Cooler temperatures (approximately 61–77°F)
- Moderate humidity
- Extended leaf wetness

Management:

Continue scouting throughout the season. Fungicides are rarely needed unless disease develops early and reaches economically significant levels.

Source: [Common and Southern Rust- Purdue Extension](#)



PHYTOPHTHORA ROOT AND STEM ROT

Phytophthora Root & Stem Rot is typically seen earlier in the season, but recently, it has been observed affecting soybeans in the R3 (beginning pod) growth stage. Although this disease is commonly associated with seedlings and young plants, infections can persist throughout the growing season. Plants infected early may not show obvious symptoms until reproductive stages, particularly following periods of heavy rainfall or saturated soil conditions.



What To Look For:

- Yellowing and wilting of leaves while leaves remain attached to the plant
- A continuous chocolate-brown lesion extending upward from the soil line
- Brown, rotted roots
- Entire plants dying in patches, especially in poorly drained areas
- Stem discoloration extending several inches above the soil surface

Favorable Conditions:

- Saturated or poorly drained soils
- Heavy rainfall or flooding
- Moderate to warm soil temperatures

Management:

If your fields have a history of Phytophthora Root & Stem Rot, consider using tools like EarthOptics (as seen in the graph above) to better understand disease risk and help prioritize management decisions. Pair this information with resistant varieties, improved drainage, and good field management to reduce future disease pressure.

Source: [Crop Protection Network-Phytophthora Rot](#)



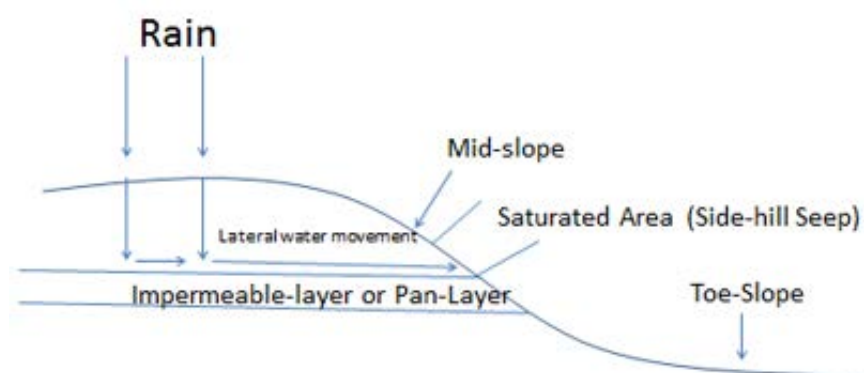
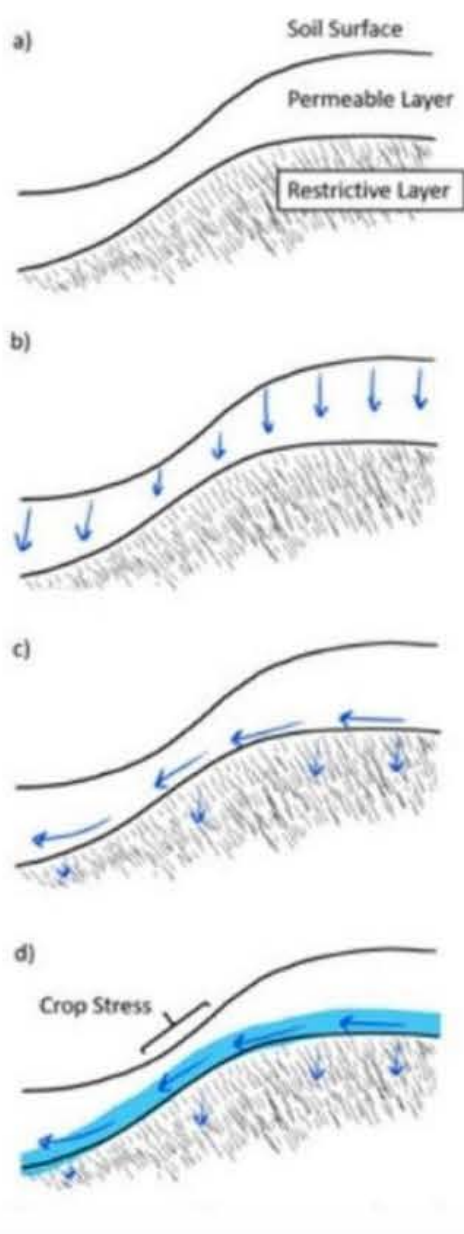


SIDEHILL SEEPS

It is not uncommon to find yellow spots in fields caused by hydrology. It can be seen from drone images or driving by or through the field. Often the pooling of water may cause saturation in the roots and stunt plant growth, causing chlorosis (yellowing of the leaves). But another type of drainage that may hinder plant growth is sidehill seepage. This phenomenon occurs when a layer of permeable soil lays on a restrictive layer. This can be caused by many things such as glacial deposits, geology, and compaction from vehicle traffic. This can also cause saturation of the soil and yellowing of the plants.

So, if you are driving by your soybean field and notice a yellow patch in a sea of green, take note of the geography of the area. If it is a depressed area the soil may be saturated with water. If it is on a clay knob, the color may be attributed to compact soil texture hindering root development. And if the patch is on the side of the hill, the yellowing may be caused by sidehill seepage. A lack of nitrogen, especially later in the season, will also cause this yellowing, but sidehill seeps may accelerate this process by draining the water-soluble nitrogen to other areas of the field.

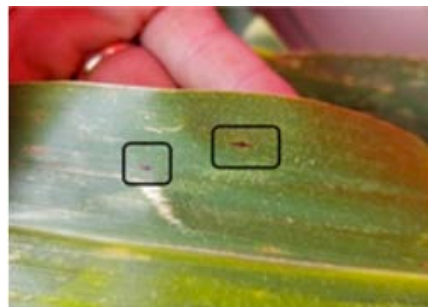
Source: [Sidehill Seeps- Purdue Extension](#)



**SO FAR, TAR SPOT IS SLOWLY BEING FOUND IN THE AREA,
BUT CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE AT ANY TIME.**

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

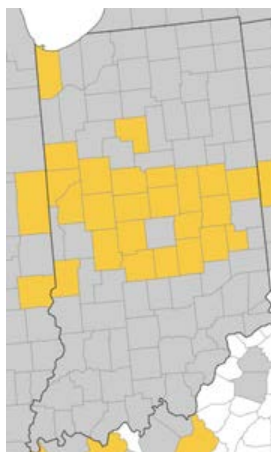
- 01** Small, raised black spots (stromata) on corn leaves that resemble flecks of tar.
- 02** Spots cannot be rubbed off like insect frass or dirt.
- 03** Initial infections are often found in the lower canopy before moving upward.



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.

Counties where Tar Spot has been found: Benton, Boone, Cass, Clinton, Delaware, Fayette, Fountain, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Johnson, Lake, Madison, Montgomery, Morgan, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vigo, and Warren.



Scan for "Tar Spot of Corn Map"

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System by The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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