



Tar spot is a foliar disease that can affect the yield output of corn hybrids. Below you will find tar spot ratings for our 2025 corn product lineup. We have also included frequently asked questions about this disease. Please refer to the Burrus Harvest Report, Product Selection Guide or our website at burrusseed.com for more information on our products. As always, you can also contact your Burrus Representative or Field Agronomist with any additional questions.

2025 TAR SPOT RATINGS

PRODUCT TAR SPOT RATING

Power Plus® 8J797 VE™*	5
Power Plus® 1K18 Q™*	7
Power Plus® 2W400 Q™*	7
Power Plus® 2A17 VE™*	7
Power Plus® 2J67 Q™*	6
Power Plus® 3W97 Q™*	6
Power Plus® 4C16 Q™*	6
Power Plus® 4P27 VE™*	7
Power Plus® 4R56 Q™*	7
Power Plus® 5F17 Q™*	6
Power Plus® 5M76 VE™*	6
Power Plus® 6B86 Q™*	6
Burrus 6U77 SSP	5
Burrus 7T27 SSP	5
Burrus 7N88 SS	4
Power Plus® 8J697AM™*	5
Burrus 9Q22 TRE	5
Power Plus® 1K12AM™*	7
Power Plus® 1U41AM™*	8

PRODUCT TAR SPOT RATING

Burrus 2A13 PCE	7
Power Plus® 2Y06AM™*	7
Power Plus® 3G31AM™*	6
Burrus 4W42 PCE	7
Power Plus® 4V73AM™*	7
Power Plus® 5J21AM™*	7
Power Plus® 5U63AM™*	5
Burrus 6K13 V	7
Burrus 6N54 VT2P	5
Burrus 6Y61 DG VT2P	4
Burrus 7F33 VT2P	5
Burrus 7L62 AA	7
Burrus 7P71 VT2P	5
Burrus 8A12 VT2P	5
Burrus 8M81 TRE	5
Power Plus® 2Y10™*	7
Power Plus® 4R40™*	7
Power Plus® 6H80™*	5
Burrus 7F30	5

RATINGS: 10 = BEST; 1 = POOREST

TAR SPOT FAQs

WHAT IS TAR SPOT?

Tar spot is a foliar disease native to Latin America that made its way to the Midwest in 2015. It has been most problematic in 2018 and 2021 due to weather conditions favorable for its development. The disease dramatically expanded its geographic reach in 2021. Tar spot produces dark structures called ascomata that develop on corn leaves. These fruiting structures are impregnated into the leaf and cannot be rubbed or scraped off without damaging the plant. Each ascomatum produces spores that can be windblown long distances. Additionally, these structures can overwinter on corn residue, releasing spores the following season. While differences in hybrid susceptibility to tar spot do exist, there is currently no known commercially available germplasm that is completely resistant.

WHAT CAUSES TAR SPOT?

Environmental conditions are the biggest drivers of tar spot development. High relative humidity and moderate temperatures are the general conditions conducive for tar spot development. Additional environmental factors are below. Tar spot severity has been notably higher in irrigated fields due to increased leaf wetness.

- Moderate temperatures in 60s - 70s °F
- Relative humidity ~75% or greater
- 7+ hours of daily leaf wetness
- Total monthly rainfall of 5.9" or greater

HOW TO MANAGE TAR SPOT?

- Select hybrids with higher disease ratings for fields with historical tar spot issues.
- Understanding the conditions favorable for the development of tar spot and scouting for its development can prevent issues at harvest. Managing irrigation to minimize leaf wetness can reduce the severity of disease development. Notably, the Tarspotter app developed by the University of Wisconsin can help indicate when conditions are favorable for tar spot development for specified fields.
- Fungicides have proven to be effective in limiting the effects of tar spot on yield and plant standability. Using a fungicide with two or more modes of action has been shown to be more effective in suppressing tar spot. Application timing from VT-R2 has been most effective in protecting yield and standability; however, an additional fungicide application might be warranted if environmental conditions are conducive for continued tar spot development. The disease is polycyclic meaning it can continue to develop within the crop canopy under sustained conditions.
- Scouting hybrids for standability ahead of harvest is recommended to prioritize fields that have been detrimentally affected by tar spot.
- Crop rotation and residue management can help reduce overwintering ascomatum and help lower tar spot severity the following year.

HOW DID WE DETERMINE TAR SPOT RATINGS?

Our ratings were compiled through opportunistic observation over multiple locations and in some instances, multiple years. This allows for a fairly accurate assessment of tar spot susceptibility in our lineup; however, ratings can be influenced on the initial presence of tar spot and the environmental conditions sustaining its development. Hybrid ratings may fluctuate over time as we continue to monitor susceptibility; however, there is no known process currently to inoculate trials with tar spot to facilitate uniform disease pressure and timing.