

Cercospora leaf Spot Damage Categories



Category 1  
1-5 spots/leaf  
0.1% severity



Category 2  
6-12 spots/leaf  
0.35% severity



Category 3  
13-25 spots/leaf  
0.75% severity



Category 4  
26-50 spots/leaf  
1.5% severity



Category 5  
51-75 spots/leaf  
2.5% severity



Category 6  
3% severity  
PROVEN ECONOMIC DAMAGE



Category 7  
6% severity



Category 8  
12% severity



Category 9  
25% severity



Category 10  
50% severity

Figure B: Cercospora Leaf Spot Damage Categories

## 2020 Late Season CLS Spray Decision Tool

Successful decision tool metrics:

1. **Practice** making CLS damage ratings (use backside or the sheet handed out earlier). Memorization of all categories is NOT necessary. Get acquainted with a few categories and make adjustments up or down (See example below).
  - a. Category 1: (earliest onset).
  - b. Category 3: (6 to 12 spots / leaf of older or non-newly formed leaves).
  - c. Category 5: (pre-economic damage or 50-75 spots / leaf of older or non-newly formed leaves).
2. **Scout** all fields intensively at end of August or early September to establish a rating per field. **This step is important!** It will require an *honest and objective* snapshot assessment of the CLS pressure in a field or the tool will NOT work.
3. **Make your spray decision:** Based upon your rating in step number two, use the following flow chart to guide your spray decisions. Note... *“Maintaining fungicide protection” given September weather temperatures and conditions should be taken to mean making your last spray at least 12 to 14 days prior to the date of desired final coverage day!*
  - a. *Fields receiving a **Category 5 or 6** are likely to experience proven economic damage. These fields will likely require fungicide coverage through the end of September or for the life of the field depending upon conditions.*
  - b. *Fields possessing a **Category 4** rating, maintain fungicide **protection** through **9/23**.*
  - c. *Fields possessing a **Category 3** rating, maintain fungicide **protection** through **9/18**.*
  - d. *Fields possessing a **Category 2** rating, maintain fungicide **protection** through **9/13**.*
  - e. *Fields possessing a **Category 1** rating, maintain fungicide **protection** through **9/8**.*
  - f. *Fields **less than Category 1**, continue to monitor disease incidence and spray if / as needed.*
4. **Stipulations (please read carefully):** There is no “One size fits all” late season recommendation covering all program scenarios. This decision tool cannot predict weather and relies heavily on several very important assumptions...
  - a. Fields **MUST** be rated using the spot damage categories on the opposite side and must also continue to receive ongoing scouting. ***If you are not willing to scout fields for infection severity throughout September, strongly consider maintaining your spray intervals to assure protection throughout the month.***
  - b. Considerations **MUST** be made for variety resistance levels and expected harvest date. Susceptible varieties and late-harvested fields may require adjustment by as much as one to two stages found in step 3 above.
  - c. Fungicide label PHI restrictions pre-empt all recommendations found on this sheet.
  - d. Consult with your SMBSC Agriculturist if you have questions.