

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

## Wisconsin Pest Survey Report

### 2008 SEED CORN SURVEY

<http://pestsurvey.wi.gov/>

The pest survey team collects pest information during inspections of seed corn for export certification. The following diseases are being monitored:

Gray leaf spot (*Cercospora zae-maydis*)  
Stewart's wilt (*Pantoea stewartii*)  
High Plains Virus (HPV)  
Maize dwarf mosaic virus (MDMV)  
Wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV)

Stewart's wilt has been documented in various locations throughout Wisconsin over the last 9 years (Dane, Rock, Grant, Calumet and Kenosha Counties). This disease is caused by a bacterium (*Pantoea stewartii*) and vectored by corn flea beetle (*Chaetocnema pulicaria*). The bacteria overwinters in corn flea beetles. Stewart's wilt re-appeared in Wisconsin in 1999 after 56 years of absence.

In 2008 DATCP personnel inspected 95 seed corn fields in 9 counties (2,416 acres) to meet the import requirements of foreign trading partners. Two fields in Rock County tested positive for Stewart's wilt. All inspected fields were also tested for three viruses: High plains virus (HPV), maize dwarf mosaic virus (MDMV) and wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV). HPV, WSMV, and their vector, the wheat leaf curl mite (*Aceria tosichella*), are not known to occur in Wisconsin. Neither HPV nor WSMV were detected in 2008. Two samples from Columbia County tested positive for MDMV, which is common in Wisconsin.

Gray leaf spot (*Cercospora zae-maydis*) is a foliar disease that reached high infestation levels in Kansas and Nebraska in 2008, but was at low levels in Wisconsin in 2008. Gray leaf spot is considered the world's most yield-limiting disease of corn and all corn hybrids have some susceptibility to it. For more information, please check this website:

<http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/q1902/build/q1902.pdf>