

# MEASURE AND MANAGE

## **Corn Molds 2009**

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With the delayed harvest this fall, and inclement weather conditions, corn ear molds may develop. For information on the most common molds, Gibberella, Fusarium, and Diplodia, see article #95 'Moldy Corn' in our Articles section of the website.

However, there appears to be another mold appearing that is likely Cladosporium, which seems to mainly affect plants that have suffered frost damage. It is dark green to black in colour, and has a fuzzy appearance. This mold is usually scattered throughout the ear mainly between kernels, as opposed to starting at one end of the ear and progressing; although the whole ear could become infested and dark in colour. Where individual kernels are infected, they are scattered randomly throughout the ear. The fungus starts at the tip (base) of the kernel and grow up the sides.

The good news with Cladosporium, is that it is not known to produce any mycotoxins. However, if conditions are such that Cladosporium is present, other mycotoxin producing fungi may also be infesting themselves.

When corn is properly dried down, the mold should easily be 'dusted off'. With silage corn, when properly ensiled with a lack of aerobic movement there should be no further mold growth.