

REALITY CHECK

Drone imagery can reveal pattern, severity, boundary, and urgency. It usually cannot name the disease or insect by itself. Ground-truthing is required before fungicide, insecticide, or rescue decisions.

| Drone can help with | Drone cannot prove by itself |
|--|---|
| Where symptoms are most severe | Exact pathogen or insect identity |
| Whether a patch is spreading | Economic threshold without field scouting |
| Whether pattern follows drainage, edges, or rows | Whether fungicide/insecticide will pay |
| Documentation for insurance/landlord/agronomist | Leaf-level diagnosis from high altitude |
| Prioritizing where to walk first | Root cause when several stresses look similar |

WHEN TO FLY

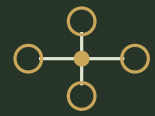
- Soybean R2-R3 for disease scouting risk windows
- Corn VT-R2 for disease onset and pollination stress
- After storms or hail to document injury and infection risk
- When roadside color changes appear but the source is unclear
- Before spray decisions to prioritize ground scouting zones
- After treatment to document whether spread slowed

SCOUT THE TRANSITION

The edge between healthy and stressed crop often tells more than the worst-looking patch. Look for lesions, insects, soil moisture, root health, and nutrient symptoms there.

Disease + Pest Scouting Card

Use the drone to prioritize scouting, not to replace it



SCOUTING PROTOCOL

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Review map and mark top 3 zones |
| 2 | Visit healthy reference zone first |
| 3 | Visit worst zone and transition edge |
| 4 | Photograph leaves, stems, roots, canopy, and soil |
| 5 | Record disease/insect signs and severity |
| 6 | Check weather, hybrid/variety, history, and spray timing |
| 7 | Call agronomist if threshold or diagnosis is uncertain |
| 8 | Log action and schedule follow-up |

FIELD DIAGNOSIS NOTES

TREATMENT DECISION / NO-ACTION REASON / FOLLOW-UP DATE
