

## Scanit launches AI-powered SporeWarn network to detect airborne crop diseases before outbreaks

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**New Iowa-based pathogen monitoring network combines autonomous SporeCam sensors, artificial intelligence and real-time field intelligence to help growers make more informed disease management decisions**



Scanit Technologies has introduced the Iowa SporeWarn Network, an artificial intelligence-driven airborne pathogen monitoring service designed to provide growers with early warning of crop diseases before visible symptoms emerge in the field.

The new network addresses one of agriculture's longstanding challenges—detecting disease pressure during its earliest stages. While conventional forecasting systems estimate disease risk based on weather conditions, the Iowa SporeWarn Network measures the actual presence of airborne pathogens, giving farmers direct insight into evolving disease threats.

At the core of the platform is SporeCam, Scanit's autonomous, AI-enabled pathogen detection technology. Installed across agricultural fields in central Iowa, the sensors continuously sample the surrounding air to identify microscopic spores associated with major corn and soybean diseases. The technology enables continuous surveillance of pathogen activity well before infections become visible on crops.

By combining real-time airborne pathogen detection with AI-powered analytics, the platform enables growers to distinguish between conditions that merely favor disease development and situations where pathogens are actively present. This additional layer of intelligence is intended to support more precise fungicide application decisions, targeted scouting efforts and improved disease management strategies.

Subscribers receive daily updates through an online dashboard featuring pathogen pressure summaries, seven-day trend analyses, disease risk assessments and regional heat maps that visualize changing pathogen activity across monitored areas. The service also delivers concise morning alerts via text message, allowing growers to monitor shifts in disease pressure throughout the growing season.

The network currently monitors five economically significant diseases affecting corn and soybeans across nearly 500,000 acres in Iowa's Story, Marshall, Polk and Hardin counties. The monitored diseases include tar spot, gray leaf spot, northern corn leaf blight, southern rust and soybean white mold, providing regional intelligence for producers throughout central Iowa.

To support field deployment, Scanit has partnered with MaxAg, an independent agricultural services provider headquartered in Maxwell, Iowa. The company oversees monitoring locations, maintains sensor infrastructure and integrates pathogen intelligence with agronomic expertise, helping translate biological data into practical crop management recommendations.

Beyond raw pathogen detection, the platform has been designed to simplify interpretation through user-friendly reports, localized agronomic context and educational resources that explain how changing disease pressure should influence scouting priorities and crop protection decisions.

In addition to grower subscriptions, Scanit has introduced a business-tier offering for agricultural retailers, crop advisors, non-governmental organizations, drone service providers and other industry stakeholders seeking broader pathogen intelligence across production regions. The company positions the network as a complementary tool to existing weather-based disease forecasting systems by providing direct biological measurements rather than relying solely on environmental conditions.

The commercial launch marks another step in the growing adoption of artificial intelligence, autonomous sensing and real-time biological monitoring in precision agriculture. As disease forecasting increasingly shifts toward data-driven decision-making, Scanit plans to expand the SporeWarn Network beyond Iowa, extending airborne pathogen monitoring to additional cropping regions in future seasons.