Environment and host infection history jointly predict disease risk in a multi-pathogen

system

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Abstract

Forecasting disease epidemics may require considering both abiotic and biotic conditions.

Abiotic conditions can influence pathogen dispersal, survival, and infection, while prior infection

by one pathogen species can alter host susceptibility to subsequent pathogens, creating historical

contingencies. Yet, the relative importance of environmental conditions, within-host pathogen

interactions, and their potential interplay in predicting seasonal disease dynamics remain

underexplored. To better understand these interactions and improve ecological forecasts of

disease risk, we analyzed more than 41,000 plant-level observations of three foliar fungal

diseases on the grass species tall fescue in North Carolina, collected from 2017–2024. We built

temporally explicit random forest models which for two of the three focal diseases accurately

(>80%) predicted future disease dynamics from a complex abiotic and biotic predictor space.

From these models, we identified key environmental thresholds that intensified annual

epidemics. We then supplemented those machine-learning models with Bayesian hierarchical

models and survival analyses, finding that pathogen-pathogen interactions can be as important as

environmental conditions in predicting disease risk. Furthermore, for two of the three focal

diseases, prior infection by a different pathogen facilitated the subsequent infection and the

strength of this facilitation was modulated by environmental context. From this study we draw

two major conclusions, one ecological and one methodological. First, knowledge of a host's

current disease state may be as important as local environmental conditions for predicting

disease dynamics. Second, by integrating complementary modeling approaches, we can develop

both predictive forecasts and mechanistic insight into the biotic and abiotic drivers of infectious

disease.

Open Research Statement: All data and code used to generate the results contained in this

paper are available on GitHub (https://github.com/cb-scott/WidenerLongTermAnalysis). Upon

publication the final version of all scripts and datafiles will be archived on Zenodo with a

permanent DOI.

Introduction

The success of pathogen transmission is jointly shaped by both abiotic environmental factors and

the biotic context. During transmission, many pathogens are exposed to environmental

conditions, such as temperature, moisture, or wind, that critically influence their ability to

survive, disperse, or infect (Altizer et al., 2006). Upon encountering a host, a pathogen interacts

with an established microbial community, potentially including pathogens that have already

infected the host. These species interactions may affect the pathogen's infection success,

including through within-host priority effects. Such priority effects can either decrease pathogen

infection success via antagonistic interactions, increase infection success via facilitative

interactions, or have no effect on infection success, making transmission outcomes potentially

subject to historical contingency (Clay et al., 2020; Fukami, 2015). Historical contingency

intersects with environmental factors to influence pathogen transmission, where the strength and

direction of pathogen species interactions may vary with shifting environmental contexts

(Vannette & Fukami, 2014). Together, these mechanisms create a temporally dynamic interplay

between environment and community history that may shape pathogen epidemic trajectories

(Hassell et al., 2021).

The relative contributions of environmental factors and historical contingencies to pathogen

dynamics, as well as the importance of interactions between them, remain poorly resolved

(Halliday et al., 2021). Separating these influences requires quantifying both the environmental

niches of individual pathogen species and the strength of their interactions, yet these parameters

are rarely measured together. Many pathogens occupy broadly overlapping abiotic niches,

making it difficult to infer the role of historical contingency from co-occurrence data alone (Suh

et al., 2024). Consequently, reliance on single-timepoint or solely correlative approaches often

conflates abiotic filtering with historical contingency, limiting our ability to identify when order

of arrival genuinely shapes infection outcomes.

Disentangling these processes requires analytical methods that can accommodate collinearity

among environmental predictors and non-monotonic relationships between those predictors and

disease outcomes. Addressing both goals, machine learning algorithms capture complex, non-

linear dynamic and offer robust predictions of future community states (Prasad et al., 2006).

Here, we focus specifically on random forest algorithms, which are relatively simple to

implement and offer insights from high-dimensional predictor data. By constructing many

decision trees from random subsets of the data (hence, the name "random forest"), random

forests not only identify the strongest predictors of a response but also reveal the environmental

or biological thresholds at which these predictors alter model predictive performance. While

random forests have recently been applied to predict future disease outbreaks, these models have

focused solely on abiotic drivers of disease (Alves et al., 2025; Shah et al., 2023).

However, despite the power of random forest algorithms, the goal of these models is predictive

accuracy rather than mechanistic understanding. Although methods exist to interpret model

results (for example, see, Molnar, 2025), post hoc analyses are often required to identify

important variable thresholds, and visualizing or interpreting interaction terms can be unintuitive.

Often, experiments have additional design consideration which would be poorly captured by

machine learning methods, such as the repeated sampling of locations or individuals through

time. Supplementing machine learning with traditional statistical methods can enhance

interpretability and predictive performance in plant biology, particularly when hierarchical

structure, known biological constraints, or uncertainty quantification are important (Kick &

Washburn, 2023). For example, Bayesian hierarchical models have been used to compare the

spatial and temporal drivers of disease and quantify uncertainty in unobserved disease states

(Farnsworth et al., 2006; Gibson et al., 2004). Similarly, survival analyses offer a natural

framework for time-to-event data in plant pathology, such as modeling incubation period length

and disease symptom timing while accommodating censored observations (Scherm & Ojiambo,

2004).

Here, we first apply random forest algorithms to climatic and biotic variables to predict seasonal

epidemic trajectories of three plant diseases in an old field over seven years. Then, we leverage

Bayesian hierarchical models and survival analyses to fully utilize the structure of our data to

gain a mechanistic understanding into the environmental and biotic drivers of disease. Through

our combined modeling approach, we find that within-host pathogen interactions can be as

important as environmental context in driving disease risk and identify key environmental

thresholds affecting disease risk.

Methods

Study System

Tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*) is a widespread cool-season grass that is grown for turf,

fodder and forage, and is an ecologically dominant species in many unmanaged plant

communities across much of the eastern United States (Natural Resources Conservation Service,

2001). We focus on three foliar fungal diseases that commonly coinfect tall fescue in the

Piedmont region of North Carolina: anthracnose, brown patch, and crown rust. Anthracnose at

our field site is caused chiefly, but not exclusively, by *Colletotrichum cereale*, which spreads

Figure 1. Mean yearly dynamics for anthracnose, brown patch, and crown rust diseases. For each disease, trendline gives cubic spline and 95% confidence interval through observations of disease prevalence in full dataset from 2017 to 2024. Anthracnose peaks earliest, in June, followed by brown patch in August, and crown rust in October. Photos at right give an example of each lesion type on tall fescue. *Photos: Susan Cleary, Dalia Chen*

primarily through rain-splash dispersal of asexual conidia (Crouch & Beirn, 2009). Brown patch is caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, which persists in the soil, and disseminates through hyphal fragments and growth in soil and water films as well as sclerotia (Ogoshi,

1987). Crown rust is caused by *Puccinia coronata* and is dispersed via wind-borne spores.

Together, these diseases affect foliar health and performance of tall fescue across diverse

environmental conditions (Butler & Kerns, 2019a, 2019b, 2019c). All three diseases are visually

distinct from each other in the field (Figure 1).

The three focal diseases exhibit distinct seasonal cycles. Anthracnose prevalence peaks in May,

followed by brown patch prevalence peaking in August, and crown rust prevalence peaking in

late October (Figure 1). These temporally staggered outbreaks create opportunities for

coinfection and potential pathogen interactions that could influence host performance and

disease severity over the growing season. Interactions between these pathogens in tall fescue can

alter disease progression (O'Keeffe et al., 2021; Green, Grunberg, & Mitchell, 2024) and

influence host susceptibility to later-arriving diseases (Halliday et al., 2017). Building on this, we

seek to quantify how the influence of pathogen–pathogen interactions have compared with

abiotic context in shaping epidemic dynamics over 7 years.

Disease Survey Data

All disease surveys were conducted between 2017 and 2024 at Widener Field in Duke Forest,

North Carolina. Data from multiple past experimental field studies were combined for the

analysis (Grunberg et al., 2025). Some past experiments involved the treatment of experimental

field plots with fungicide. For these datasets, only control (i.e. no-fungicide) plots were retained

for analysis. In some years, disease presence was measured on multiple leaves per plant (i.e. per

tiller). We reduced leaf-level observations to the plant-level, where if disease symptoms were

observed on any leaf, we marked the disease as present for the plant. This yielded approximately

41,000 plant-level observations total.

Environmental Data

Weather station data was obtained from the North Durham Wastewater Treatment Facility (ID:

DURH; North Carolina State Climate Office, 2025). This facility is approximately 10 km from

Widener Field and was the closest station which recorded both atmospheric and soil conditions at

all time points surveyed for disease. The final data set included 2,814 observations (daily mean

value) of 32 climatic variables spanning April 24, 2017, to June 6, 2025. A full list of climatic

variables, units, and descriptors is given in Table S1.

For analyses sensitive to multicollinearity, observations of the 32 climatic variables through time

were reduced to four principal components (PCs) using the R function 'prcomp'. Climatic

variables were first centered and scaled to have a mean of zero and variance of one using the

'decostand' function in R package vegan (method = "standardization"). The first four PCs

together explained 79% of the total variance in the climatic variables over time and explained

more variance than expected by chance under a broken stick model (Figure S1). For the week

preceding each fungal disease observation, we calculated the mean score for each principal

component. The average dynamics of these environmental PCs over the course of a year can be

found in Figure S2. Finally, we visualized the loadings of each climatic variable on the PCs to

infer relationships between the original 32 variables and 4 summary PCs (Figure S3).

Random forest analysis to identify abiotic thresholds and predict annual pathogen dynamics

Random forest models were developed using the R packages 'ranger' and 'tidymodels' (Kuhn &

Wickham, 2020; Wright & Ziegler, 2017). We trained binary classification models to predict the

presence or absence of each pathogen at the plant level. Predictor variables included the 7-day

average of climatic variables preceding each pathogen observation, the presence or absence of

other pathogens on the same plant, the mean prevalence of each pathogen in each plot at the

previous time point, month, and year. For example, the crown rust model had the following

structure:

$\text{Crown Rust}_{0|1,t} \sim \text{Anthracnose}_{0|1,t} + \text{Brown Patch}_{0|1,t} + \mu_{(t-7:t)}(\text{Climactic Variable}_i) +$

$\mu(\text{Crown Rust}_{t-1}) + \mu(\text{Anthracnose}_{t-1}) +$

$\mu(\text{Brown Patch}_{t-1}) + \text{Month} + \text{Year}$

To avoid temporal data leakage (where future information is inadvertently used to train or

evaluate a model and thus leads to unrealistically good performance), the data was split into

training and test sets based on year and month of observation. The first 80% of the data from

May 2017 – July 2022 were used as training sets, whereas the remaining 20% of the data from

August 2022 – November 2024 was used as the test set.

Within the training data, we applied time series cross-validation using a sliding window

approach. Each validation fold used the prior 12 months of data as training and tested on the

subsequent month. This procedure generated a total of 36 sliding periods, though six of these

contained validation sets with insufficient data (all spanning winter months, December –

February) and were excluded, for a total of 30 final rolling windows. To address class imbalance,

the data was up-sampled so that the number of pathogen presence cases equaled the number of

absence cases in each temporal split.

For each random forest model, we grew 3,000 trees. The mtry hyperparameter, which controls

the number of variables considered in each decision tree, was optimized via grid search over

values from 4 to 32. The value minimizing the out-of-bag (OOB) error was selected for each

model. The final 'mtry' parameter used for each model was 4 for anthracnose, 9 for crown rust,

and 4 for brown patch.

Overall model performance was evaluated by comparing predictions to the held-out test set. We

evaluated overall performance using accuracy, recall, precision, F-score, and kappa, which are

described further in Table S2. Variable importance was assessed on the test data and is reported

as permutation-based accuracy, indicating accuracy improvement for each predictor when

compared to the permuted predictor. The relationship between climatic variables and focal

pathogen presence were further explored using accumulated local effects (ALE) plots. We

explored the ALE for the first three most important variables which were not collinear with any

higher importance predictors (Pearson correlation coefficient < 0.8). ALE plots facilitate

understanding of how individual predictor variables affect the response of a machine learning

model, while controlling for cross-correlation and interactions among predictors. In our case, a

higher ALE value indicates that the model is more likely to predict pathogen presence for a given

parameter value than the model would predict on average.

Survival analyses to estimate effects of earlier arriving pathogens on later arriving pathogens

In 2018, individual plants were surveyed longitudinally (i.e., marked and tracked over time) for

disease. Using this data, a survival analysis was conducted to evaluate whether prior infection by

a different pathogen facilitated or antagonized subsequent infection, in the context of the

environment. For each pathogen, we constructed a Cox proportional hazards regression model,

with plant ID included as a clustering variable to account for repeated measures on the same

plant and environmental variables summarized by the first four principal components as

covariates. R package 'survival' was used to build models and 'survminer' was used to visualize

results (Kassambara et al., 2025; Therneau, 2026).

Environmental niche overlap between pathogens

We additionally calculated the degree of overlap between the pathogen's environmental niche

spaces using R package 'nicheROVER' (Lysy et al., 2023). Climatic variables were summarized

as PC scores for this analysis. Using this information, we calculated the pairwise probabilities

that a randomly drawn individual from pathogen A would be found within the interior 95% of

the niche region of pathogen B using function 'overlap' (alpha = .95).

Bayesian hierarchical analysis to estimate the interaction between biotic and abiotic variables

To complement the machine learning and survival models, we additionally constructed Bayesian

regression models for our data. This Bayesian framework allowed us to account for hierarchical

structure and quantify uncertainty in pathogen–pathogen and pathogen–environment interactions

using the full plot-level dataset, which could not be easily addressed within the survival or

random forest frameworks.

Separate models were built for each focal pathogen (Bernoulli family with logit link) using the R

package 'brms' (Bürkner, 2021). Fixed effects included coinfecting pathogens, environmental

variables summarized by the first four principal components, sampling month and year, and the

focal pathogen's prevalence in the prior census at the same plot. Interaction terms between co-

occurring pathogen presences and environmental variables were also included to assess

environmentally dependent changes in the strength or direction of pathogen-pathogen

interactions. A random effect was included to account for repeated resampling of plots over time.

For example, the crown rust model had the following structure:

$\text{Crown Rust}_{0|1,t} \sim \mu(\text{Crown Rust}_{t-1}) + \text{Month} + \text{Year} + \text{EnvPC1} + \ldots + \text{EnvPC4} +$

$\text{Anthracnose}_{0|1,t} + \text{Brown Patch}_{0|1,t} + \text{Anthracnose}_{0|1,t} : \text{Brown Patch}_{0|1,t} +$

$\text{Anthracnose}_{0|1,t} : (\text{EnvPC1} + \ldots + \text{EnvPC4}) +$

$\text{Brown Patch}_{0|1,t} : (\text{EnvPC1} + \ldots + \text{EnvPC4}) +$

$(1 \mid \text{Plot ID})$

A weakly informative prior, *Normal*(0, 2), was applied to fixed effects to improve convergence

and prevent overfitting of terms. Four chains were run per model with 6000 iterations total and

3000 burn in iterations. Posterior predictive checks and convergence diagnostics ($\hat{R} < 1.01$, ESS

> 1000) confirmed adequate model across all models (Figures S4 – S6).

236 Results

Temporal random forest models well predict crown rust and brown patch dynamics

Crown rust, anthracnose, and brown patch dynamics were each best predicted by disparate environmental and biotic factors (Figures S7 – S9). Model performance metrics were comparable across brown patch (Accuracy = 0.844, Kappa = 0.197) and crown rust models (Accuracy = 0.808, Kappa = 0.285), indicating high predictive power. Conversely, the anthracnose model had lower predictive power (Accuracy = 0.456,

Figure 2. Random forest model results for crown rust (a-c) Three most important and non-collinear variables to predicting crown rust dynamics exhibit critical thresholds where the probability of disease observation rapidly changes, indicated by a change in ALE sign. (d) Anthracnose presence more strongly affected the probability of predicting crown rust for a given plant than brown patch presence.

Kappa = 0.0803) and was only nominally better than selecting classes based on random chance

(Table S2). For each disease, we also constructed models with the 14-day and 30-day averages of

environmental predictors leading up to the sampling date, rather than the 7-day average

presented here. Models with these longer-term averages generally decreased model performance

(Tables S3 – S4). For each model, we visualize the ALE of the three most important and non-

collinear variables, but visualizations of the top 15 most important variables (after this threshold

there is a generally steep drop off in variable importance and most variables are colinear) are

given in Figures S11 – S13.

Species-specific environmental thresholds and biotic interactions predict disease dynamics

Figure 3. Random forest model results for brown patch.

(a-c) Three most important and non-collinear variables to predicting brown patch dynamics exhibit critical thresholds where the probability of disease observation rapidly changes, indicated by a change in ALE sign. (d) Anthracnose co-occurrence more strongly affected the probability of predicting brown patch for a given plant than crown rust presence, although neither was in the top 15 most important variables to the model.

Crown rust dynamics were primarily driven by light-, humidity-, and wind-related variables, as well as anthracnose coinfection (Figure S7). However, the best predictor for crown rust presence on a host plant was its own lagged prevalence, indicating a high degree of temporal autocorrelation. Beyond this, crown rust was most likely to be observed when maximum photosynthetically active radiation ranged from 1000-2000 μmol/m²/s, maximum daily relative humidity ranged from 93-99%, and average wind speeds were less than 4 kmph (Figure 2a-c). Crown rust presence at the plant-level was also positively associated with anthracnose coinfection (Figure

2d).

Brown patch dynamics were primarily predicted by temperature-related variables, followed by a

smaller role for wind- and humidity-related predictors and lagged anthracnose and crown rust

prevalence (Figure S8). Like crown rust, the best predictor of brown patch presence at the plant

level was its own lagged prevalence in the host population, indicating a high degree of temporal

autocorrelation. With respect to the environmental variables, brown patch was most likely to be

observed when maximum soil temperature exceeded 18.8ºC, average wind speed was below 4

kmph, and maximum relative humidity ranged from 93.8%-98% (Figure 3a-c). While neither

anthracnose or crown rust coinfection were in the 15 most important variables to the model (Figure 3d), the lagged prevalence of crown rust and anthracnose at the plot level generally increased the probability of observing brown patch (Figure S12).

Figure 4. **Random forest model results for anthracnose**. (a-c) Three most important and non-collinear variables to predicting anthracnose dynamics exhibit critical thresholds where the probability of disease observation rapidly changes, indicated by a change in ALE sign. (d) Crown rust coinfection more strongly affected the probability of predicting crown rust for a given plant than brown patch presence.

While overall predictive power for anthracnose was low, its dynamics were primarily driven by temperature-, moisture-, and humidity-related variables (Figure S7). Anthracnose was most likely to be observed at the plant-level when daily average soil temperatures

exceeded 13ºC, daily average soil moisture was lower than 0.45 m³/m³, and daily maximum

relative humidity ranged from 87.5-96.3% (Figure 4a-c). While neither crown rust or brown

patch coinfection, or their previous prevalences in the host population, were among the most

important variables in predicting anthracnose disease presence (Figure S7), crown rust

coinfection increased the probability of observing anthracnose more than brown patch (Figure

4d).

Facilitation by early arriving pathogens can exceed the impact of abiotic factors on plant-level

disease risk

Anthracnose, brown patch, and crown rust displayed substantial overlap in their climatic niches

(Figure S10), making it possible that the apparent facilitative effects identified by our machine

learning models result from shared environmental responses rather than biotic interactions.

Moreover, these potential interactions may be masked in the full combined dataset from 2017–

2024, since it contains repeated measurements at the plot level but lacks longitudinal tracking of

individual plants in most years. To further investigate these factors, we utilized a subset of the

full dataset from 2018 which contained longitudinal, individual-level data to test how prior

pathogen infections and environmental variables influence the host individual's risk of acquiring

each disease ("disease risk" for a focal disease) using Cox proportional hazards models.

For crown rust, climatic variables, prior infection by anthracnose and prior infection by brown

patch all had significant effects on disease risk (Figure S14). Prior infection by anthracnose

increased the risk of subsequent crown rust infection approximately 3-fold (Hazard ratio: 3.50, p

< 0.001). Prior infection by brown patch nearly doubled the risk of subsequent crown rust

infection (Hazard ratio: 1.61, $p < 0.001$). Additionally, we found that all four environmental PCs

significantly affected the risk of crown rust infection, albeit with smaller effect than prior

infection by either anthracnose or brown patch.

For brown patch, while climatic variables and prior crown rust infection significantly impacted

brown patch infection risk, prior anthracnose infection did not (Figure S15). We estimated that

prior crown rust infection had the strongest effect on brown patch infection risk, roughly

doubling it (Hazard ratio: 1.88, $p < 0.001$). Environmental PC1, PC3, and PC4 increased brown

patch infection risk with smaller effect, likely representing the effects of temperature, wind, and

soil moisture, respectively (Figure S3).

Finally, for anthracnose, climatic variables had the only significant effect on disease risk (Figure

S16). In this model, the first four environmental PCs had a significant effect on the hazard ratio,

with PC1 exhibiting the strongest effect (Hazard ratio = 1.44, $p < 0.001$). Temperature-related

variables primarily contribute to PC1 (Figure S3), suggesting that higher temperatures were the

strongest driver of anthracnose presence.

Environmental context can modulate the strength and direction of pathogen-pathogen

interactions

Finally, we investigated potential interactions between the four environmental PCs and pathogen

co-occurrence in driving focal disease presence. We built a Bayesian hierarchical model to

predict the probability of observing the focal pathogen based on environmental PCs, time of

year, pathogen coinfection, and the interaction of PCs and coinfection. By using these models,

we were able to explicitly account for the repeated sampling of plots through time and retained

sufficient power to look at interactions between environmental PCs and pathogen coinfection,

lending us insights into how pathogen facilitation may strengthen or weaken under specific

environmental contexts. For each disease, we found significant interactions between

environmental PCs and pathogen coinfection (Table S5). Here, we focus on these interaction

terms, as they give insights not revealed by our other models, but full Bayesian model results can

be found in Tables S6 – S8.

For crown rust, coinfection by either anthracnose or brown patch interacted with the effects of

the abiotic predictors for all environmental PCs (Figure 5). The variable which was most

predictive of crown rust presence was anthracnose coinfection ($\beta = 1.27, CI_{95\%} = [0.0832, 1.11]$),

but this positive association of crown rust with anthracnose waned as PC1 values increased,

representing warmer temperatures ($\beta = -0.0408, CI_{95\%} = [-0.0771, -0.00232]$). Increases in PC1

generally reduced the probability of crown rust infection ($\beta = -0.184, CI_{95\%} = [0.027, -0.235]$), but

this association disappeared in plants coinfected by brown patch ($\beta = 0.181, CI_{95\%} = [0.131, 0.231]$).

While PC2 did not have any base effects on the probability of crown rust infection, crown rust

was positively associated with brown patch coinfection at low values of PC2; this association

disappeared as PC2 values increased ($\beta = -0.182, CI_{95\%} = [-0.288, -0.0805]$), likely representing

increasing humidity or decreasing winds. Increases along PC3, which was not well characterized

by any individual environmental variable, decreased the probability of crown rust infection ($\beta =$

$-0.116, CI_{95\%} = [-0.236, 0.000232]$). For plants with coinfection by either brown patch ($\beta =$

$0.119, CI_{95\%} = [-0.00178, 0.240]$) or anthracnose ($\beta = 0.0805, CI_{95\%} = [-0.0394, 0.207]$) this effect was

generally reduced. Finally, increases in PC4 decreased the probability of crown rust infection

($\beta = -0.442, CI_{95\%} = [-0.531, -0.354]$). For plants coinfected by either brown patch ($\beta =$

$0.137, CI_{95\%} = [0.0419, 0.226]$) or anthracnose ($\beta = 0.237, CI_{95\%} = [0.155, 0.322]$), this negative

relationship was more pronounced.

For brown patch, coinfection by either anthracnose or crown rust interacted with environmental

PC1 and PC2 (Figure 6). Higher PC1 values, representing higher temperatures, increased the

probability of brown patch infection ($\beta = 0.258, CI_{95\%} = [0.188, 0.327]$), and this effect was

intensified by crown rust coinfection ($\beta = 0.0629, CI_{95\%} = [0.0151, 0.112]$). Conversely, coinfection

by anthracnose decreased the probability of brown patch infection at high PC1 values ($\beta =$

$-0.215, CI_{95\%} = [-0.259, -0.169]$). Higher PC2 values, representing increased humidity or lower

winds, also increased the probability of brown patch infection ($\beta = 0.362, CI_{95\%} = [0.266, 0.456]$).

Coinfection by either anthracnose ($\beta = -0.284, CI_{95\%} = [-0.382, -0.187]$) or crown rust ($\beta =$

$-0.163, CI_{95\%} = [-0.256, -0.0700]$) lessened this effect, decreasing the probability of brown patch

infection at higher PC2 values. While higher PC3 ($\beta = 0.125, CI_{95\%} = [-0.00486, 0.256]$) and lower

PC4 ($\beta = -0.203, CI_{95\%} = [-0.303, -0.107]$) values increased the probability of brown patch

infection, they did not interact with anthracnose and crown rust coinfection.

Figure 5. Bayesian posterior estimates for fixed effects of environmental PCs, pathogen coinfection, and their interactions in the crown rust model. Color indicates the posterior probability that an effect is nonzero. Insets highlight conditional effects of selected PC × coinfection interactions, with ANTH+/ANTH− denoting presence/absence of anthracnose and BP+/BP− denoting presence/absence of brown patch. Rugs along the top of the inset give the density of positive crown rust observations (CR+) with respect to the environmental PC, while rugs along the bottom of the inset give the density of crown rust absence (CR-) observations. Conditional effects of all pathogen x PC interactions can be found in Figure S17.

Figure 6. Bayesian posterior estimates for fixed effects of environmental PCs, pathogen coinfection, and their interactions in the brown patch model. Color indicates the posterior probability that an effect is nonzero. Insets highlight conditional effects of selected PC × coinfection interactions, with ANTH+/ANTH− denoting presence/absence of anthracnose and

CR+/CR− denoting presence/absence of crown rust. Rugs along the top of the inset give the

density of positive brown patch (BP+) observations with respect to the environmental PC, while

rugs along the bottom of the inset give the density of brown patch absence (BP-) observations.

Conditional effects of all pathogen x PC interactions can be found in Figure S18.

Figure 7. Bayesian posterior estimates for fixed effects of environmental PCs, pathogen

coinfection, and their interactions in the anthracnose model. Color indicates the posterior

probability that an effect is nonzero. Insets highlight conditional effects of selected PC ×

coinfection interactions, with BP+/BP− denoting presence/absence of brown patch and

CR+/CR− denoting presence/absence of crown rust. Rugs along the top of the inset give the

density of positive anthracnose observations (ANTH+) with respect to the environmental PC,

while rugs along the bottom of the inset give the density of anthracnose absence observations

(ANTH-). Conditional effects of all pathogen x PC interactions can be found in Figure S19.

Finally, for anthracnose, coinfection by crown rust or brown patch generally lessened the

association between abiotic predictors and anthracnose infection (Figure 7). Higher

environmental PC1 values, indicating higher temperatures (Figure S3) were positively associated

with anthracnose infection ($\beta = 0.277, CI_{95\%} = [0.238, 0.315]$). Plants without crown rust or brown

patch coinfections were more tightly associated with changes along PC1. PC2 was positively

associated with anthracnose infection ($\beta = 0.0966, CI_{95\%} = [0.0591, 0.134]$), where high values

represent high humidity variables. Brown patch coinfection reduced the effects of PC2 on

anthracnose infection ($\beta = -0.251 \; CI_{95\%} = [-0.354, -0.150]$). Increased PC3 values, which likely

represents a combination of wind, moisture, and sunlight variables, also increased the probability

of anthracnose infection ($\beta = 0.269, CI_{95\%} = [0.219, 0.319]$). For plants coinfected by brown patch,

this effect was lessened ($\beta = -0.184, CI_{95\%} = [-0.303, -0.05]$), while coinfection by crown rust

intensified this effect ($\beta = 0.102, CI_{95\%} = [-0.0004, 0.204]$). Finally, increases in PC4, likely

representing decreased soil moisture, decreased the probability of anthracnose infection ($\beta =$

$-0.169, CI_{95\%} = [-0.224, -0.110]$). Brown patch ($\beta = 0.150, CI_{95\%} = [0.0593, 0.240]$) or crown rust ($\beta =$

$0.136, CI_{95\%} = [0.0586, 0.215]$) coinfection both lessened the negative effects of PC4 on anthracnose

infection probability.

Discussion

From this study, we draw two major conclusions, one ecological and one methodological.

Ecologically, we found that that pathogen coinfection can influence disease trajectories at a

similar strength as abiotic factors. We further showed that the magnitude and direction of these

interactions can vary with environmental context. Methodologically, through using temporally

explicit random forest models, we were able to generate accurate predictions of field epidemics

and identify critical environmental thresholds for two of three focal diseases. We then combined

these machine learning models with Bayesian hierarchical models and survival analyses to gain a

better mechanistic understanding of epidemic dynamics. Taken together, we provide an

integrated framework for understanding and forecasting the dynamics of multi-pathogen

systems.

Accurate prediction of field disease dynamics may require explicitly accounting for coinfections.

When multiple pathogens circulate simultaneously, single-pathogen frameworks can be

qualitatively misleading because they fail to capture effects of pathogen–pathogen interactions

(Strauss et al., 2021; Dutt et al., 2022; Garin et al., 2018; Susi et al., 2015). Our results suggest

that some pathogens can increase host susceptibility to infection by other, later-arriving

pathogens and thereby alter epidemic trajectories, consistent with other evidence that historical

contingency can shape disease outcomes (Halliday et al., 2020). When early arriving pathogens

modify host susceptibility or local pathogen communities, environmental conditions favoring

one pathogen may propagate through the system to influence later epidemics of other pathogens

in unexpected ways.

Further, pathogen-pathogen interactions may vary based on environmental context. Such context

dependence was common in our data (Figure 5 - Figure 7, Figure S17 - Figure S19). However,

these apparent context-dependent interactions may alternatively reflect phenological patterns,

rather than true pathogen–pathogen interactions. This challenge of distinguishing true

interactions from temporal co-occurrence patterns motivated our inclusion of month as a

covariate in the Bayesian and random forest models, allowing us to assess the predictive power

added by including environmental PCs as well as time of season per se (i.e. month). In some

models, month was a stronger predictor than environmental PCs, reaffirming that seasonal

Figure 8. Inferred environmental drivers and biotic interactions for crown rust (CR), anthracnose (ANTH), and brown patch (BP), based on consensus across the three models. Humidity and temperature are well-established fungal disease drivers; wind speed likely reflects dispersal (CR) or a correlated unmeasured variable such as thunderstorm intensity (CR, BP). For each variable, we report the consensus direction of effect (positive, negative, or non-monotonic) on each pathogen. Humidity and moisture are classified as non-monotonic (n.m.), indicating optimal ranges for symptom expression, while other variables show threshold or linear responses. Asterisks/annotations indicate inferred directions of coinfection-environment interactions.

timing, such as the arrival of crown rust from alternate hosts or shifts in plant community composition, plays a substantial role in disease emergence and persistence.

Despite their apparent importance, incorporating multi-pathogen dynamics into predictive models can present substantial challenges. Coinfection processes introduce nonlinearity and context dependence which can be poorly captured by traditional approaches. We found random forest models to be a robust and flexible framework to address these challenges, building upon existing work leveraging them in single pathogen

plant systems (Alves et al., 2025; Shah et al., 2023) to generate predictions (>80% accuracy) for

two of our three focal pathogens. Further, we recovered biologically relevant environmental

thresholds from noisy environmental data for all three of our focal pathogens.

The identified environmental thresholds align with variables known to be important to fungal

phenology in general (e.g., temperature, moisture; Delmas et al., 2024) and with the life cycles of

our focal fungal diseases. For example, *Colletotrichum cereale*, a causal agent of anthracnose,

favors high humidity conditions with optimal temperatures of 21-27°C (*Turfgrass Diseases*,

n.d.), coarsely aligning with the results from our random forest model. Paralleling this, the

recovery of maximum photosynthetically active radiation as an important variable to crown rust

presence likely reflects the host plant's growing season and *P. coronata's* obligate biotrophy

(Butler & Kerns, 2019b), whereas the increased probability of observing *P. coronata* at lower,

but non-zero, wind speeds may reflect ideal conditions for dispersal. Finally, *Rhizoctonia solani*,

the causal agent of brown patch, overwinters in the soil as a saprobe and we recovered soil

temperature to be the most important environmental driver of brown patch presence in the field

(Butler & Kerns, 2019a).

As well as mechanistic insight, this integrated approach could support ecological forecasting by

combining near-term predictions from machine learning models with scenario-based forecasts

from mechanistic models (Ye et al., 2025). This would provide both immediate management

guidance and longer-term planning horizons under changing environmental conditions.

Random forests excel at prediction but often do not fully leverage experimental design details

aimed to give deeper mechanistic insight. We therefore complemented this approach with

survival models that explicitly leveraged longitudinal plant-level data, allowing us to further

distinguish facilitation from shared environmental niche space. From the combined modeling

results, we generated a hypothesis integrating the most important environmental drivers

identified from our random forest models, the pathogen-pathogen interactions from our survival

analyses, and the environment-by-pathogen interactions from our Bayesian models (Figure 8).

Together, this hypothesized framework identifies interaction pathways most likely to mediate

disease dynamics across environmental gradients.

Conclusions and Future Directions

Advancing ecological forecasting in multi-pathogen systems will require the integration of

complementary modeling frameworks. Machine learning models can identify dominant

predictors and nonlinear responses, while mechanistic models provide better insight into

interaction strength and direction. Ensemble approaches, which combine predictions from

multiple models, may offer a similarly powerful strategy for multi-pathogen systems (Chauvin et

al., 2025; Mao et al., 2025). In our study, longitudinal data was key to inferences about pathogen

species interactions, but its limitation to a short time period limited our ability to incorporate

survival analyses into a formal ensemble framework. Future studies pairing finer-scale

environmental measurements (e.g., at the plot level) with long-term, plant-level longitudinal data

could enable more fully integrated forecasts that balance predictive accuracy with mechanistic

understanding of how coinfection dynamics shift across environmental gradients. Developing

such forecasting capacity will be critical for proactive disease management as climate change

alters both pathogen phenology and the environmental context in which pathogen interactions

occur.

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Supplemental Figures

Figure S1. Scree plot of environmental PCs. Red line gives the broken stick null model (amount of variation expected to be
explained by chance for each PC). The first four PCs explain more variation than expected by chance and were retained for
subsequent analyses.

Figure S2. Figure SX. Average dynamics of each environmental PC over the course of a year. DoY represents "Day of the Year" on the x-axis, with day 0 = January 1. Trendline is a general additive model fit to the data with a cubic regression spline and formula y ~ s(x, bs = "cs").

12 *Figure S3. Heatmap of climatic variable loadings on the first four principal components, representing each variable's*
13 *contribution to the components. Rows are clustered to highlight variables with similar loading patterns across*
14 *components. Color intensity and hue indicate the magnitude and direction of each loading.*

Figure S4. Posterior predictive check for anthracnose 'brms' model using a density overlay from 50 posterior draws. The thick line shows the density of the observed data, while the thin, semi-transparent lines represent densities of replicated datasets simulated from the posterior predictive distribution. Good agreement between observed and simulated densities indicates that the model adequately captures the overall distribution of the data; here, thin blue lines are difficult to see as they almost completely overlap with expected values.

Figure S5 Posterior predictive check for crown rust 'brms' model using a density overlay from 50 posterior draws. The thick line shows the density of the observed data, while the thin, semi-transparent lines represent densities of replicated datasets simulated from the posterior predictive distribution. Good agreement between observed and simulated densities indicates that the model adequately captures the overall distribution of the data; here, thin blue lines are difficult to see as they almost completely overlap with expected values.

Figure S6. Posterior predictive check for brown patch 'brms' model using a density overlay from 50 posterior draws. The thick line shows the density of the observed data, while the thin, semi-transparent lines represent densities of replicated datasets simulated from the posterior predictive distribution. Good agreement between observed and simulated densities indicates that the model adequately captures the overall distribution of the data; here, thin blue lines are difficult to see as they almost completely overlap with expected values.

40   *Figure S7. Top fifteen most important variables in predicting crown rust dynamics from random forest model.*

43 *Figure S8. Top fifteen most important variables in predicting brown patch disease state from random forest model.*

46 *Figure S9. Top fifteen most important variables to predict anthracnose disease state from random forest model.*

Overlap Probability (%) −− Niche Region Size: 95%

Figure S10. Niche overlap among anthracnose, brown patch, and crown rust, calculated from environmental principal components. Rows represent the focal pathogen, and columns indicate the probability that the focal pathogen occurs within the core 95% of another pathogen's environmental niche. For example, there is an 88.2% probability that anthracnose occurs within 95% of the environmental niche of brown patch.

Figure S11. ALE plots for top 15 most important variables in crown rust model.

Figure S12. ALE plots for top 15 most important variables in brown patch random forest model.

Figure S13. ALE plots for top 15 most important variables in anthracnose random forest model.

Hazard ratio

PC1	(N=8908)	1.6 (1.4 – 1.8)		<0.001 ***
PC2	(N=8908)	1.4 (1.2 – 1.5)		<0.001 ***
PC3	(N=8908)	1.1 (1.0 – 1.3)		0.043 *
PC4	(N=8908)	1.3 (1.0 – 1.5)		0.021 *
prev.anth	0 (N=358)	reference		
	1 (N=8550)	3.5 (2.2 – 5.7)		<0.001 ***
prev.bp	0 (N=8546)	reference		
	1 (N=362)	1.6 (1.3 – 2.1)		<0.001 ***
(cluster)	(N=8908)	reference		

 # Events: 1003; Global p–value (Log–Rank): 1.6999e–28
AIC: 11727.12; Concordance Index: 0.6

Figure S14. Cox proportional hazard model results for crown rust infection. All environmental PCs significantly increase
the odds of observing an anthracnose infection, however prior infection by anthracnose has a stronger effect on the
subsequent risk of rust infection.

Figure S15. Cox proportional hazard model results for brown patch infection. Environmental PC1, PC3, and PC4
significantly increase the risk of brown patch infection on a similar scale as prior rust infection. Prior anthracnose
infection does not affect the risk of subsequent Brown patch infection.

Figure S16. Cox proportional hazard model results for anthracnose infection. All environmental PCs significantly increase
the odds of observing an anthracnose infection, whereas prior infection by rust or brown patch do not affect the
subsequent odds of observing an anthracnose infection.

Figure S17. Conditional effects of environmental PCs and coinfection status on the probability of observing crown rust
infection from Bayesian hierarchical models. Rugs along the top and bottom of each plot give the observed presences
(top) and absences (bottom) of crown rust in the data across PC scores. Plots marked with (*) indicate interaction terms
for which zero was not included in the 95% credibility interval of the posterior distribution. (Left) Environmental PC x
brown patch conditional effect plots, where the darker green indicates brown patch coinfection. (Right) Environmental PC
x anthracnose conditional effect plots, where the darker blue indicates anthracnose coinfection.

Figure S18. Conditional effects of environmental PCs and coinfection status on the probability of observing brown patch infection from Bayesian hierarchical models. Rugs along the top and bottom of each plot give the observed presences (top) and absences (bottom) of brown patch in the data across PC scores. Plots marked with (*) indicate interaction terms for which zero was not included in the 95% credibility interval of the posterior distribution. (Left) Environmental PC x crown rust conditional effect plots, where the darker yellow indicates crown rust coinfection. (Right) Environmental PC x anthracnose conditional effect plots, where the darker blue indicates anthracnose coinfection.

Figure S19. Conditional effects of environmental PCs and coinfection status on the probability of observing anthracnose infection from Bayesian hierarchical models. Rugs along the top and bottom of each plot give the observed presences (top) and absences (bottom) of anthracnose in the data across PC scores. Plots marked with (*) indicate interaction terms for which zero was not included in the 95% credibility interval of the posterior distribution. (Left) Environmental PC x crown rust conditional effect plots, where the darker yellow indicates crown rust coinfection. (Right) Environmental PC x brown patch conditional effect plots, where the darker green indicates brown patch coinfection.

114 **Supplemental Tables**

115 *Table S1*. Variables included in random forest models from DURH weather station.

Variables Retrieved from DURH	Unit
Average Wind Direction	degree
Minimum wind speed	kph
Average Wind Speed	kph
Maximum Wind Speed	kph
Average Relative Humidity	%
Minimum Relative Humidity	%
Maximum Experimental Leaf Wetness	mV
Total Precipitation	in
Maximum Relative Humidity	%
Minimum Air Temperature	C
Minimum Dew Point Temperature	C
Maximum Dew Point Temperature	C
Average Dew Point Temperature	C
Maximum Soil Temperature	C
Minimum Soil Temperature	C
Growing Degree Days per Day - Base 50F	Degree Days
Average Air Temperature	C
Maximum Heat Index	C
Maximum Air Temperature	C
Maximum Soil Moisture	m3/m3
Average Soil Moisture	m3/m3
Minimum Soil Moisture	m3/m3
Average Solar Radiation	W/m2
Average Photosynthetically Active Radiation	W/m2
Maximum Solar Radiation	W/m2
Estimated Evapotranspiration (Penman-Monteith)	cm
Maximum Photosynthetically Active Radiation	micromol/m2s
Average Wind Vector - v Component	kph
Average Wind Vector - u Component	kph
Accumulated heating Degree Day (Base 65F)	degree days

118 *Table S2.* (a) **Model performance parameters for crown rust, anthracnose, and brown patch models with 7-day**
119 **average of environmental variables leading up to sampling date. (b) Descriptions of model metrics used to assess**
120 **model performance.**

121 (a)

Metric	Anthracnose	Crown Rust	Brown Patch
Accuracy	0.546	0.808	0.844
Precision	0.529	0.904	0.944
Recall	0.949	0.869	0.883
Kappa	0.0803	0.285	0.197
F-Score	0.679	0.886	0.913

122 (b)

Metric	Description
Accuracy	The proportion of correct predictions made by the model. A value of 1 means the model always predicts correctly, while 0 means it always predicts incorrectly.
Precision	The accuracy of positive predictions, where high precision, approaching 1, indicates few false positives, while low precision, near zero, indicates many false positives.
Recall	How often the model predicts false negatives, where high recall (1) indicates the model did not classify any false negatives, while low recall indicates many false negatives (0).
Kappa	Measures how well the model predicts outcomes compared to random chance. A value of 0 indicates performance no better than chance, and 1 indicates perfect prediction.
F-Score	The harmonic mean of precision (the ability to avoid false positives) and recall (the ability to avoid false negatives). Higher F-Scores, closer to 1, indicate a balance of high precision and recall. This metric is particularly useful when the number of true positive cases is low, as is the case for many of our pathogens.

125 *Table S3. Random forest model metrics using the 14-day average of environmental variables leading up to the sampling*
126 *date.*

Pathogen	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	Kappa	F-Score
Anthracnose	0.535	0.524	0.888	0.0597	0.659
Crown Rust	0.855	0.912	0.921	0.393	0.916
Brown Patch	0.809	0.964	0.824	0.260	0.888

128 *Table S4. Random forest model metrics using the 30-day average of environmental variables leading up to the sampling*
129 *date.*

Pathogen	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	Kappa	F-Score
Anthracnose	0.545	0.532	0.856	0.0817	0.656
Crown Rust	0.810	0.902	0.873	0.278	0.887
Brown Patch	0.792	0.965	0.804	0.242	0.877

Table S5. **Direction of environmental PC effects and their interaction with coinfecting pathogens on focal**
pathogen presence from Bayesian hierarchical model. Columns give the focal pathogen (italicized), which were
the response variable for each model. Rows give the base effect of each environmental PC on that focal pathogen,
and the direction of the interaction between each environmental PC and the presence of another coinfecting
pathogen (**bolded**). Direction is reported only for fixed effects with a posterior probability greater than 95% of being
non-zero. Fixed effects where this was not the case are indicated by n (no effect).

Enviro PC	PC1			PC2			PC3			PC4		
Focal Patho	*ANTH*	*CR*	*BP*	*ANTH*	*CR*	*BP*	*ANTH*	*CR*	*BP*	*ANTH*	*CR*	*BP*
Base Effect	+	-	+	+	*n*	+	+	-	+	-	-	-
ANTH+		+	-		*n*	-		*n*	*n*		+	*n*
CR+	-		+	*n*		-	+		*n*	+		*n*
BP+	-	-		-	-		-	+		+	+	

143 *Table S6. Full Bayesian hierarchical model results for anthracnose.*

Variable	Estimate	Est.Error	l-95% CI	u-95% CI	Rhat	Bulk_ESS	Tail_ESS
Intercept	-187	40.7	-266	-108	1	2160	2670
lag.anthracnose	0.965	0.0724	0.824	1.11	1	2650	2740
month2	0.251	0.117	0.024	0.487	1	1960	2410
month3	-1.08	0.113	-1.3	-0.85	1	1330	2300
month4	0.537	0.128	0.279	0.785	1	1410	2430
month5	0.183	0.184	-0.176	0.544	1	1150	1950
month6	1.42	0.21	1.01	1.82	1	1240	1830
month7	-0.0143	0.208	-0.427	0.395	1	1190	2180
month8	-0.0042	0.213	-0.426	0.409	1	1110	2010
month9	-0.422	0.189	-0.791	-0.05	1	1180	1940
month10	0.13	0.155	-0.184	0.428	1	1230	2230
month11	-0.113	0.111	-0.332	0.101	1	1450	2470
month12	-0.656	0.0983	-0.845	-0.46	1	2180	2890
year	0.0924	0.0201	0.0536	0.132	1	2170	2680
PC1	0.277	0.0199	0.238	0.315	1	1360	1900
PC2	0.0966	0.0188	0.0591	0.134	1	2610	2580
PC3	0.269	0.0258	0.219	0.319	1	2280	2840
PC4	-0.169	0.0284	-0.224	-0.11	1	2200	2720
brown_patch1	0.425	0.112	0.21	0.644	1	2870	2910
crown_rust1	1.33	0.0828	1.18	1.5	1	2940	2990
brown_patch1:crown_rust1	-0.755	0.133	-1.01	-0.5	1	2840	2990
PC1:brown_patch1	-0.213	0.0246	-0.261	-0.17	1	2960	2950
PC2:brown_patch1	-0.251	0.0512	-0.354	-0.15	1	2740	2590
PC3:brown_patch1	-0.184	0.0628	-0.303	-0.05	1	2910	2860
PC4:brown_patch1	0.15	0.0463	0.0593	0.24	1	2700	2810
PC1:crown_rust1	-0.126	0.0209	-0.166	-0.09	1	2990	2880
PC2:crown_rust1	-0.0344	0.0485	-0.13	0.062	1	3160	2890
PC3:crown_rust1	0.102	0.0516	-4E-04	0.204	1	2730	2850
PC4:crown_rust1	0.136	0.0403	0.0586	0.215	1	2720	2660

146   *Table S7. Full Bayesian hierarchical model results for crown rust.*

Variable	Estimate	Est.Error	l-95% CI	u-95% CI	Rhat	Bulk_ESS	Tail_ESS
Intercept	388	40.7	308	468	1	2880	2850
lag.crown_rust	2.39	0.0813	2.23	2.55	1	2800	2750
month2	-0.26	1	-2.44	1.45	1	2950	2660
month3	-1.89	1.3	-4.72	0.282	1	2810	2830
month4	-0.951	0.913	-2.92	0.656	1	2920	2720
month5	-0.275	0.984	-2.43	1.48	1	2640	2500
month6	2.63	0.391	1.87	3.41	0.999	2560	2580
month7	4.79	0.375	4.08	5.54	1	2560	2840
month8	5.15	0.37	4.45	5.89	1	2560	2590
month9	6.5	0.361	5.8	7.24	1	2550	2690
month10	6.28	0.348	5.62	6.98	1	2510	2560
month11	4.29	0.338	3.67	4.98	1	2490	2530
month12	1.96	0.361	1.29	2.72	0.999	2490	2690
year	-0.196	0.0201	-0.235	-0.156	1	2880	2880
PC1	-0.184	0.027	-0.235	-0.132	1	3030	3120
PC2	-0.0276	0.0448	-0.118	0.0602	1	2990	2910
PC3	-0.116	0.0604	-0.236	0.000232	1	3010	2830
PC4	-0.442	0.0457	-0.531	-0.354	1	2520	2770
anthracnose1	1.27	0.0832	1.11	1.43	1	2780	2830
brown_patch1	0.289	0.163	-0.0283	0.606	1	3050	2950
anthracnose1:brown_patch1	-0.708	0.135	-0.967	-0.443	1	3000	2790
PC1:anthracnose1	-0.0408	0.0191	-0.0771	-0.00232	1	3110	2640
PC2:anthracnose1	0.0143	0.0463	-0.0747	0.106	1	3010	2710
PC3:anthracnose1	0.0805	0.0623	-0.0394	0.207	1	2990	2730
PC4:anthracnose1	0.237	0.0417	0.155	0.322	1	2770	2820
PC1:brown_patch1	0.181	0.0257	0.131	0.231	1	2840	2800
PC2:brown_patch1	-0.182	0.0528	-0.288	-0.0805	1	2790	2920
PC3:brown_patch1	0.119	0.0623	-0.00178	0.24	0.999	3190	2700
PC4:brown_patch1	0.137	0.0477	0.0419	0.226	1	3000	2900

148 *Table S8. Full Bayesian hierarchical model results for brown patch.*

Variable	Estimate	Est.Error	l-95% CI	u-95% CI	Rhat	Bulk_ESS	Tail_ESS
Intercept	920	48.4	827	1010	1	2540	2360
lag.brown_patch	0.801	0.122	0.563	1.05	1	3050	2950
month2	0.155	0.394	-0.628	0.901	1	1840	2370
month3	-0.0477	0.411	-0.86	0.747	1	1830	2430
month4	0.0934	0.344	-0.59	0.77	1	1610	2120
month5	0.0448	0.391	-0.713	0.813	1	1480	2290
month6	0.213	0.373	-0.516	0.957	1	1420	2180
month7	1.32	0.38	0.584	2.07	1	1460	2080
month8	2.02	0.373	1.29	2.77	1	1430	2120
month9	1.75	0.355	1.06	2.45	1	1400	1970
month10	1.84	0.322	1.22	2.51	1	1410	2010
month11	0.594	0.305	0.0319	1.21	1	1510	2370
month12	0.221	0.343	-0.444	0.914	1	1800	2270
year	-0.458	0.0239	-0.504	-0.412	1	2550	2360
PC1	0.258	0.0352	0.188	0.327	1	2410	2620
PC2	0.362	0.0475	0.266	0.456	1	2530	2850
PC3	0.125	0.0655	-0.00486	0.256	1	2490	2770
PC4	-0.203	0.0498	-0.303	-0.107	1	2780	2630
anthracnose1	0.328	0.107	0.116	0.538	1	2490	2780
crown_rust1	0.398	0.15	0.101	0.691	1	2550	2460
anthracnose1:crown_rust1	-0.576	0.135	-0.834	-0.304	1	2680	2850
PC1:anthracnose1	-0.215	0.0235	-0.259	-0.169	1	2710	2600
PC2:anthracnose1	-0.284	0.0499	-0.382	-0.187	1	2680	2660
PC3:anthracnose1	-0.0541	0.0676	-0.188	0.075	1	2490	2770
PC4:anthracnose1	0.029	0.0483	-0.0638	0.123	1	2890	2990
PC1:crown_rust1	0.0629	0.0245	0.0151	0.112	1	2700	2780
PC2:crown_rust1	-0.163	0.0474	-0.256	-0.07	1	2780	2760
PC3:crown_rust1	0.0428	0.0542	-0.062	0.151	1	2850	2800
PC4:crown_rust1	-0.0182	0.0445	-0.108	0.0685	1	2950	2910

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