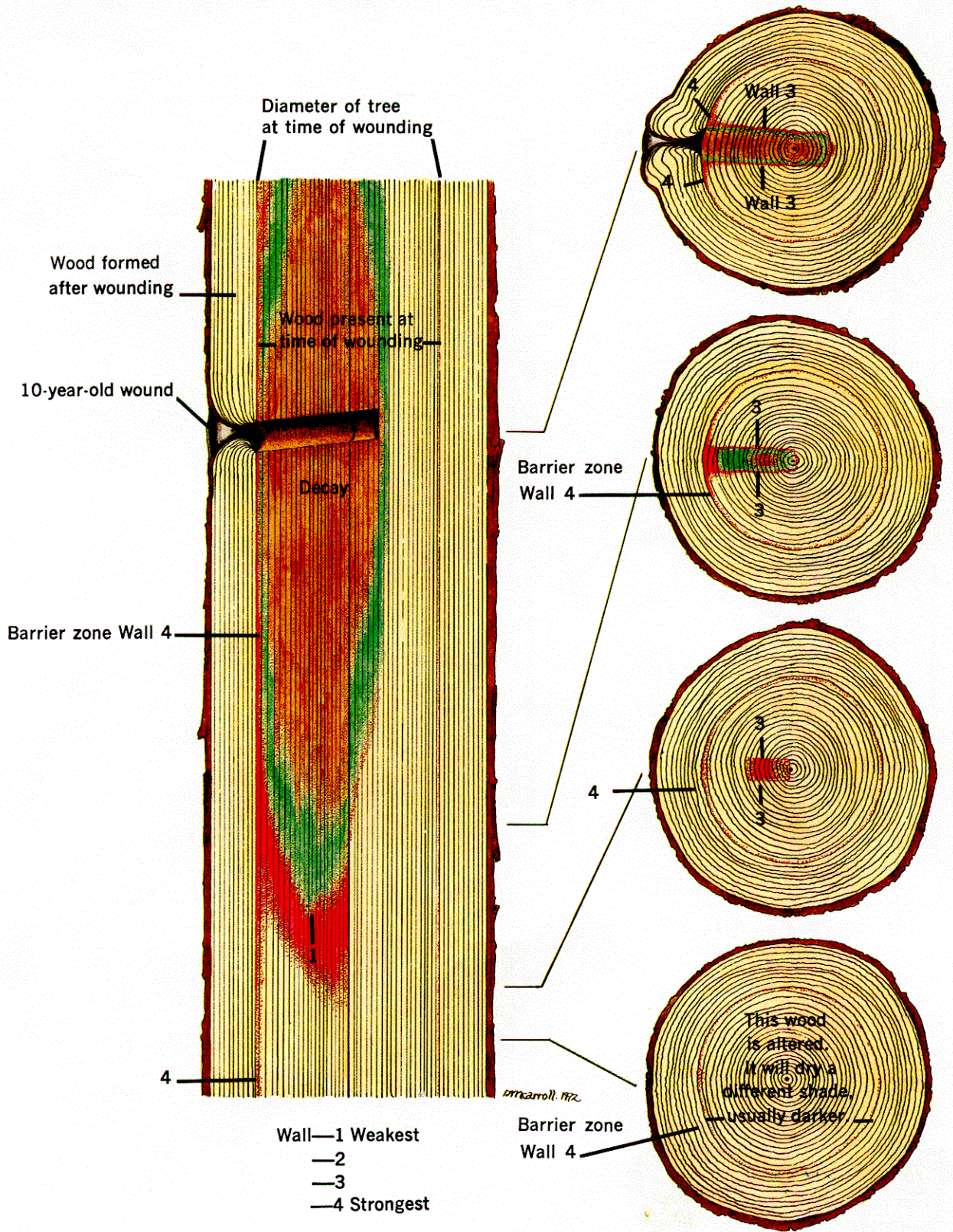


After wounding, the tree reacts. Chemical barriers develop around the injured tissues. Some wood-inhabiting microorganisms surmount these barriers and begin to interact with the tree. The tree exerts a living protective force to keep the invaders out, and the invaders exert a strong force to get into the tree through the wound. When microorganisms are able to get in, they move from compartment to compartment. And

when the walls of the compartments begin to fall to the force of the invaders, the tops and bottoms (Wall 1) go first, then the inner walls (Wall 2), and then the side walls (Wall 3). But, most of the time the barrier zone (Wall 4) holds, and confines the invaders to the wood present at the time of wounding. The figures 1, 2, 3, and 4, in addition to naming the wall, also indicate the relative strength of each wall. It must be emphasized

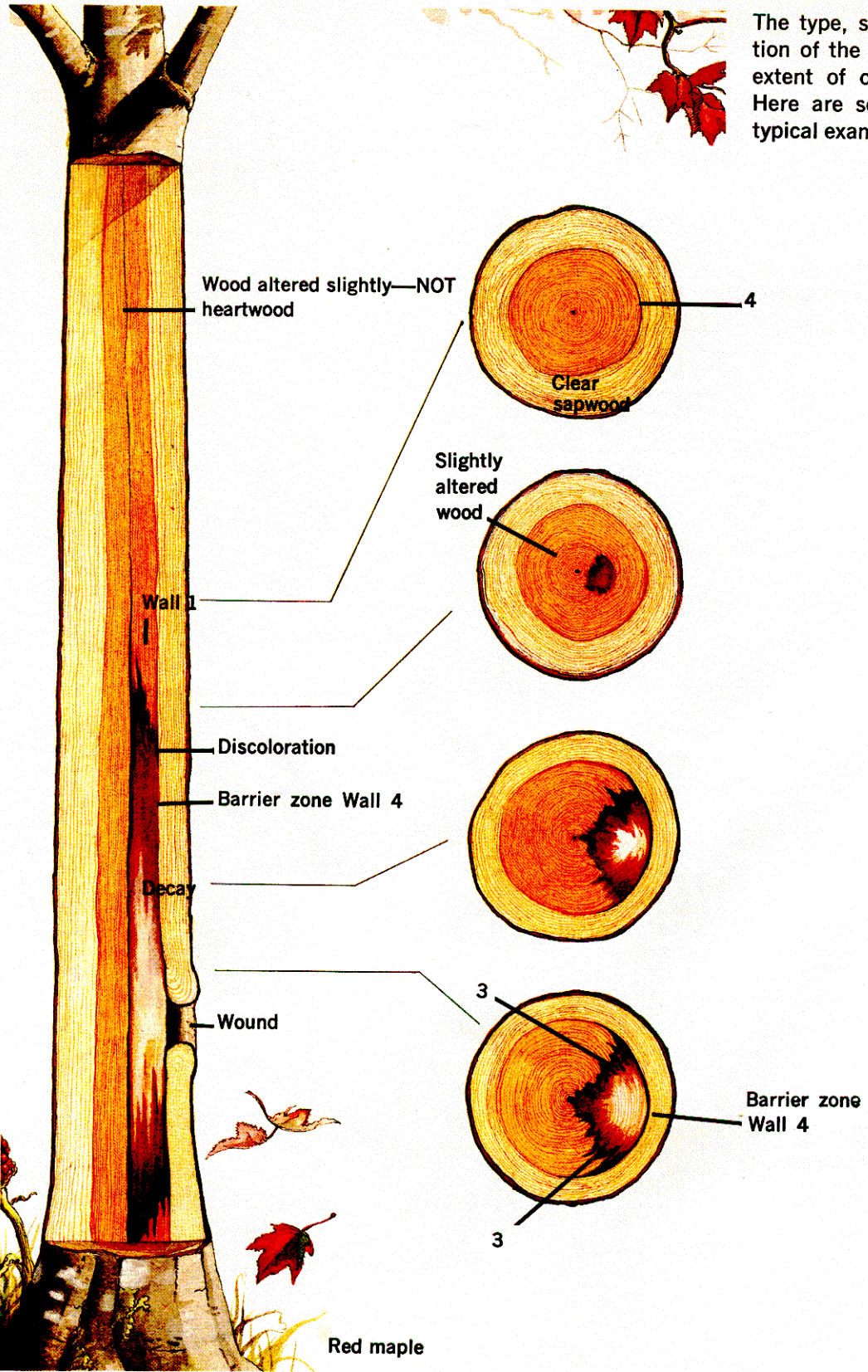
that the walls are not absolute in their compartmentalizing capacities and given enough time, even the barrier zone (Wall 4) will fall.







The type, severity, and position of the wound will affect the extent of compartmentalization. Here are some of the most typical examples.



Red maple