

Forest Disease Management Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region



Brown Trunk Rot

Brown trunk rot is caused by *Fomitopsis officinalis* commonly called the quinine conk. Decay by this fungus is most common in old-growth trees. Trees bearing quinine conks usually are extensively decayed.

Hosts: Douglas-fir, larch, pines.

Recognition: Conks can be large (4-8 x 8-24 inches), dirty white throughout, chalky, and pendulous or hoofshaped; mycelial felts are abundant in shrinkage cracks of decayed wood (felts taste bitter); brown cubical rot of heartwood.

Disease Spread: Infections occur through broken branch stubs, or other wounds, especially in old-growth trees; spores are windborne.

Management: None warranted except avoidance of stem wounding. Conks generally indicate cull. Salvage merchantable trees with de prevent cull. Trees with conks should be recreation areas.

May be Confused With: Brown cubical butt rot (*Pschweinitzii*), brown crumbly rot (*F. pinicola*).



Conks of *Fomitopsis officinalis*

Decay and mycelial felts
in shrinkage cracks

