

Forest Disease Management Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region



Mottled Rot

Mottled rot is caused by the fungus *Pholiota limonella*. This is often called the “yellow cap fungus.”

Hosts: Hardwoods, hemlock, true fir.

Recognition: Brown mottled rot of heartwood.

Soft annual mushrooms with yellow central stem appear on infected trees in late summer and fall; upper surface is sticky, slightly scaly and yellow; undersurface has yellow to brown gills; mushrooms may appear in clusters.

Disease Spread: Generally associated with wounds, especially basal scars on old growth. The fungus produces spores that are carried by winds. They can cause infection if they land on wood exposed by wounds.

Management: Avoid tree wounding; remove live trees with sizable wounds or mushrooms; harvest old, decadent trees. Trees with basal scars or mushrooms should be treated in recreation areas.

May be Confused With: Armillaria root rot.

Mushrooms of *P. limonella*



Decay associated with
P. limonella