

Forest Disease Management Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region



Dark Brown Cubical Rot

Dark brown cubical rot is caused by the fungus *Laetiporus (Polyporus) sulfureus*. It is commonly called the “sulphur fungus.”

Hosts: Hemlocks, spruces, pines, larches, true firs, hardwoods.

Recognition: Brown cubical rot of the heartwood.

Soft, watery, shelving, annual conks are produced in overlapping clusters; upper surface is bright orange to lower surface is sulfur yellow; mycelial sheets abundant in shrinkage cracks of decayed wood.

Disease Spread: Infections by spores occur through dead branch stubs and wounds; often a butt rot in conifers but less localized in hardwoods; conks usually indicate complete cull; generally a minor problem in living conifers.

Management: Avoid stem wounds; remove live trees with broken tops, sizable wounds, or fruit bodies; harvest old, decadent trees. Trees with fruit bodies should be treated in recreation areas.

May be Confused With: Nothing if conks are present; brown crumbly rot and red brown butt rot if conks are absent.



Conks of *Laetiporus sulfureus*