SHREINER TREE CARE

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Plant Disease Fact Sheet

Hypoxylon Canker

Hypoxylon spp.

Description

Hypoxylon Canker is caused by a fungus which contributes to the premature death of trees stressed by drought, construction damage, or other problems. Rapidly rotting tissue leads to structural weakening, which causes serious hazard to people or property in high-use areas.

Hypoxylon canker appears black and crusty similar to dried tar.

Symptoms & Diagnosis

The fungus is usually visible as a definite fruiting layer that has dislodged the bark. Fruiting layers vary in color. Hundreds of small, black fruiting bodies are imbedded in this layer.

Treatment

Disease prevention can be achieved in high value trees by keeping the tree vigorous and unwounded. Fertilize high-value trees and water them during drought periods. Once infection has occurred, remove infected limbs or trees, because they rapidly become hazardous to people and property.

Management

Managing tree stress is a crucial component of disease management. Trees can remain healthier and aesthetically pleasing longer by properly managing water, avoiding compaction and grade changes, and controlling insect damage. Fertilization may be used to improve tree vigor.

Oak displaying different stages of Hypoxylon Canker.

Affected Species

Quercus spp.	Oaks