

Split Gill Fungus

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Split Gill Fungus (*Schizophyllum commune*)

DESCRIPTION:

Split gill fungus can be found in almost every corner of the world. The fruiting bodies look like small saucers or fans and can be found on living or dead trees. They are creamy yellow-white in color, with a 1-4cm wide cap and a dense, sponge-like texture. The underside has pinkish-gray gills that radiate from the center.

HOSTS:

Split gill fungus is a facultative pathogen. It will cause white rot of the sapwood (living cambial cells) of already stressed trees or trees with large wounds.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

This fungus gets its name from the gills on the underside of its fruiting body that often split and close to protect the spore surface during dry periods. When the gills rehydrate through rain, the splits reopen to release reproductive spores. The conks/fruiting bodies can survive several cycles of this process, which allows it to grow on every continent in the world, except for Antarctica.

Split gill fungus is known to cause white rot in trees, leaving the internal structure weakened by making the wood spongy.

MANAGEMENT:

The fruiting body is easily recognized due to its features. This fungus should not be ignored and could cause structural issues. It is important for the structural integrity of the tree to be inspected. Try to optimize tree health through cultural practices such as proper fertilizing, mulching and pruning methods. Consult your local arborist for an inspection or more information on keeping your trees healthy.

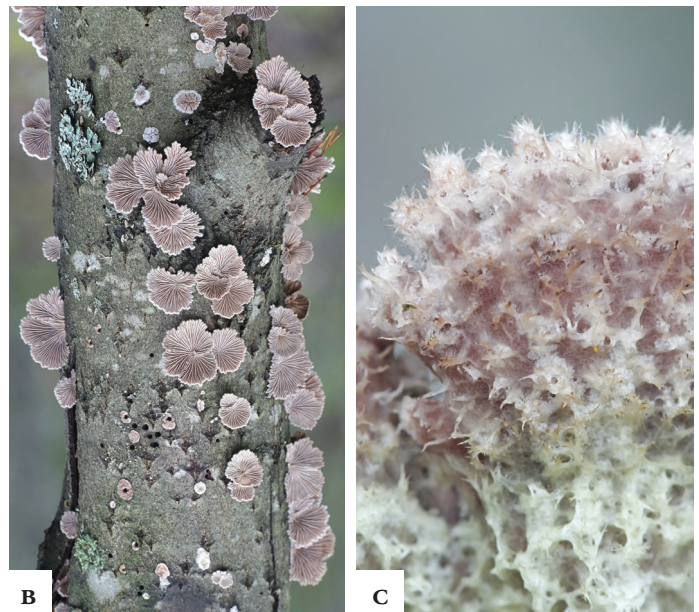


FIGURE A. SPLIT GILL FUNGUS, UNDERSIDE CLOSE-UP

FIGURE B. FRUITING BODIES ON A DECAYING TREE TRUNK

FIGURE C. SPLIT GILL FUNGUS CLOSE-UP, TOP WITH SPONGE-LIKE TEXTURE

The scientists at **The Davey Institute Research and Diagnostic Laboratories** support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult The Davey Institute's Plant Health Care Treatment Guide.

Scan the QR code to learn more about insects and diseases that may impact your property.

