

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Ganoderma Butt Rot of Urban Trees *Ganoderma sessile*

DESCRIPTION:

Varnish conk, *Ganoderma sessile*, is a moderately aggressive species of wood decay fungi that attacks hardwoods and deciduous trees. Mushroom growths, called conks, form on the lower portion of the trunk at the base of the tree. Their conks start as creamy blobs that become hard as they age with a glossy, reddish upper surface.

HOSTS:

Many deciduous trees are susceptible to this fungal species.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Spores released by the conks disperse in the wind and infect other trees through wounds on the trunk or woody roots. It then causes a white rot of the host trees wood, which leads to strength loss.

MANAGEMENT:

Infected tree trunks should be regularly tested for soundness. There are currently no effective fungicides for this disease, so prevention is crucial. Try to minimize or eliminate any wounds to the trunk.



A



B

FIGURE A. FRUITING BODY, *GANODERMA SESSILE*

(Fred Brooks, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Bugwood.org)

FIGURE B. CONKS FORMING ON THE TRUNK OF A TREE

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.

