

Problem: Hypoxylon Canker (*Biscogniauxia atropunctatum*) of Oak



Early Stages of the Disease



Later Stages of the Disease

Hosts: Primarily oak in Kansas but can also infect maples, pecans, hickory, elms and other species.

Description: Hypoxylon Canker attacks trees that are already stressed. Symptoms include small leaves, yellow and brown leaves, dead limbs and branches with a thinning canopy and water sprouts from the trunk and major branches. Oftentimes, the sapwood in the cankered area has a white, gray, or silvery appearance.

Recommendations: Healthy trees are not affected. Therefore, maintaining the health of existing trees by watering during dry periods is vital to prevent infection. Also avoid stressing the tree by not disturbing the root system with construction, adding or removing soil underneath the tree or heavy traffic. If over 15% of the canopy of the tree is affected, the tree should be removed. Hypoxylon canker weakens the structural integrity of the tree making it a hazard to people or nearby structures.

Remember that Hypoxylon canker cannot be controlled once the trunk is infected and so prevention by reducing stress is the only option.

References:

1. [Tree and Shrub Problems in Kansas](#), MF3132, page 47

2. [Oak Diseases & Insect Pests](#), Clemson University, Home & Garden Information Center

Last Update: 11/1/2023

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

“Knowledge for Life”

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service