

## **Problem:** Trees with Mushroom Growth



**Hosts:** Trees

**Description:** Trees, especially older trees, will sometimes have mushrooms growing directly on the trunk. These mushrooms are feeding on dead wood and can result in the loss of wood strength. Trees weakened by decay can result in branch or trunk breakage during wind or ice storms. Such trees in populated areas or near structures can be a hazard.

**Recommendations:** Nothing can be used to kill the mushrooms growing on the tree trunk. The part of the mushroom that is seen is the fruiting body. The main part of the mushroom, the mycelium, is inside the tree and is protected.

Though some fungi can enter a tree through rotted roots, decay fungi cannot successfully attack through intact bark. Avoid wounding trees so disease organisms cannot enter. Prune young trees so as the tree grows older, it will not need to have large limbs removed resulting in a large wound.

Keep tree healthy and vigorous by watering during dry weather and pruning as needed by removing dead or diseased limbs. Make proper cuts to not leave stubs. Make cuts so rainwater will not collect. Wound dressings do not prevent infection and can slow healing. They are not recommended.

Hazard trees should be removed.

**References:**

1. [Tree Diseases that Create Hazards](#), PennState Extension, XL0074
2. [Wood Decay in Landscape Trees](#), University of California, Integrated Pest Management Program

**Last Update:** 11/17/2023

---

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