

Wood Decay Biology and ID – Chelsi Abbott

When parasitic wood decay fungi attack, the infection can compromise the stability of a tree as well as the health. This results in a potentially hazardous tree that can be dangerous to those working on it or those near it. But not all wood decay fungi are harmful, as many fill a very important role in the ecosystem by breaking break down woody tissue to release nutrients to other organisms. Since there are many wood decay fungi of varying virulence this presentation aims to explain fungal biology and cover distinguishing features of common parasitic wood decay fungi to assist in recognizing the relative concerns associated with each.

Speaker Bio –

Chelsi Abbott, MSc is a scientific advisor and education coordinator with the Davey Institute. In her scientific advisor role, she provides diagnostic and management support, conducts research, and participates in outreach. Her expertise is in diagnostics and wood decay fungi. In her education coordinator role, she develops curriculum and runs the Davey Institute of Tree Sciences flagship training program. She received her master's degree in plant pathology from Purdue University, she is an ISA certified arborist, TRAQ qualified, and a certified forest therapy guide.