Gray Saprot

Gray saprot is caused by the fungus *Cryptoporm* (Polyporus) *volvatus*, often called the pouch fungus. *Polyporus* is very common on recently killed conifers.

**Hosts:** Occurs on most conifers, but most common on ponderosa and lodgepole pine.

**Recognition:** Superficial soft grayish saprot of slash and dead trees.

White to tan leathery globose annual conks issue from insect holes in the bark; brown tube layer is completely enclosed by a leathery membrane.

**Disease Spread:** Conks appear 6-18 months after tree death; bark beetles carry mycelial fragments of the fungus from infected to uninfected trees; tunneling activities of the beetles create suitable infection courts for fungus establishment; spores are probably not insect disseminated and are relatively unimportant in the infection process.

**Management:** Generally not a problem on living trees. Salvage dead trees promptly. Conky trees in recreation areas should be removed.

**May be Confused With:** Nothing if conks are present.