

In heartwood-forming trees the patterns are the same, but they are sometimes difficult to see because they are often contained in heartwood that is already dark in color. Compartmentalization explains how columns of discolored and decayed wood can be found in ring patterns separated by sound wood.



measured July 1975

A major obstacle in understanding multiple columns of compartmentalized decay is the difficulty in "seeing" them in three dimensions.

Here are some examples:

Birch—Column of discoloration and decay associated with a wound developing around a central column of discoloration associated with branch stubs.

