

# Stem Decays and Stains

## Heart Rots of Oak

*Inonotus dryophilus* (Berk.) Murr.

*Phellinus everhartii* (Ell. & Gall.) A. Ames.

**Hosts:** Oaks

**Symptoms/signs:** Oaks are host to many heartwood decay fungi. Two of the most common are *I. dryophilus* and *P. everhartii*. The former produces an annual fruiting body that degrades quickly following spore dispersal, while the latter produces a perennial fruiting body (conk) that grows a fresh sporulation layer every year.

**Biology:** As with most decay fungi, branch stubs are the most common sites of infection, but entry also occurs through trunk injuries. Both fungi produce fruiting bodies on living trees.

**Effects:** Both fungi are capable of causing extensive heartwood decay.



Figure 206. *Inonotus dryophilus* on Emory oak.



Figure 207. Heart rot, *Phellinus everhartii*, on gambell oak.

### Similar Insects

**and Diseases:** There are many other fungi that decay the heartwood of living oak trees, but these are the most common.

**References:** 29,

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