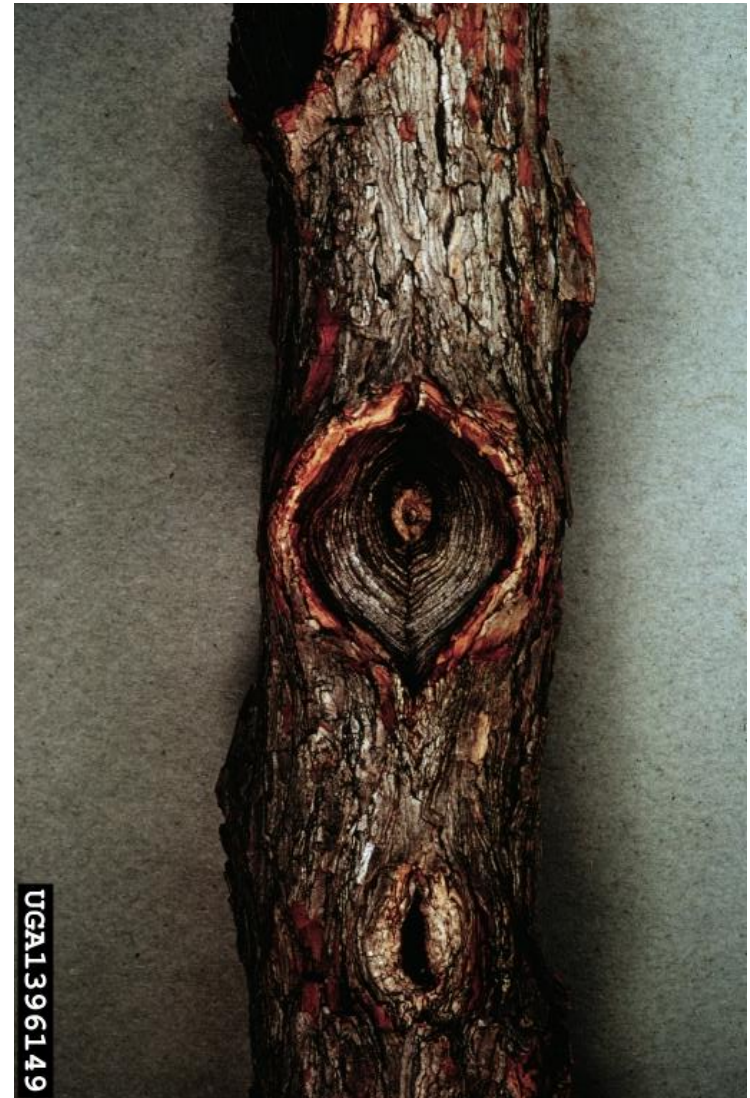


[nectria canker](#) (*Neonectria ditissima*)



annual "target" canker on hardwood trees

## **nectria canker**

### ***Neonectria ditissima***

Nectria canker is the most common canker disease of hardwood trees. It seriously reduces the quantity and quality of forest products. This disease usually does not kill trees, but causes serious volume losses. It is common on yellow birch, black walnut, and sassafras. It also occurs on aspen, red oak, maple, beech, poplar, and birch.

The fungus can be identified by the creamy-white fruiting structures that appear on cankers soon after infection. It can also be identified by the pinhead-sized, red, lemon-shaped perithecia near canker margins after 1 year.

Well-defined localized areas of bark, cambium, and underlying wood are killed by the fungus. Concentric, annual callus ridges develop around the expanding canker, and bark sloughs off the older parts of the canker. After several years, the canker resembles a target. The fungus survives through the winter in cankers, and produces spores during the spring. Windblown and water-splashed spores can infect tree wounds and branch stubs.