

# Forest Disease Management Notes

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Pacific Northwest  
Region



## Port-Orford-Cedar Root Rot

Port-Orford-cedar root rot is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora lateralis*. This is a devastating disease that has killed thousands of Port-Orford-cedars.

**Hosts:** Port-Orford-cedar, occasionally Alaska cedar in ornamental settings.

**Recognition:** Rapid decline and death; crowns fade from yellow through red and brown; cinnamon-brown stain in wood of roots and root crowns.

**Disease Spread:** Spores spread in moving water, germinating when they contact roots; spores may be carried from place to place in soil on logging equipment, animals, etc. Tree to tree spread also occurs across root grafts; conditions favorable for Port-Orford-cedar also favor the disease; *P. lateralis* is an introduced fungus, and there are only traces of resistance to the disease in Port-Orford-cedar populations.

**Management:** Avoid moving infested soil from infested to uninfested stands; concentrate Port-Orford-cedar on slopes that do not receive drainage from roads; favor other tree species in drainages.

**May be Confused With:** Armillaria root rot.

Characteristic Brown Stain caused by  
*Phytophthora lateralis*



Tree mortality caused by  
*Phytophthora lateralis*