

Armillaria in Wyoming

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Phytopathology 95:S10

Armillaria root disease, caused by several different *Armillaria* species, infects a wide range of conifers and hardwoods throughout the world. Although this disease has been one of the most intensely studied of forest diseases, little is known about its roles in Wyoming forests. We are conducting a field survey designed to examine the geographic distribution of *Armillaria* species, and to characterize relationships among forest types, host species and conditions, site, and *Armillaria* species. Plot locations across the state were randomly selected previous to field visits using a geographic information system, forest cover maps, and road maps. About half of these sites were visited in 2003 and 2004. By the end of 2004, we sampled 132 plots in 15 forest cover types, and expect to finish 280 plots by the end of 2006. To date, *Armillaria* has been found at 31 locations and in 11 forest cover types. Forty-four isolates were collected and are being identified to species. Many consider *Armillaria* a major driver of forest structure and composition. Monitoring this disease should provide information valuable for managers interested in disease prevention and control, and forest sustainability.