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FUNGUS WOOD DECAY LABORATORY*

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ABSTRACT

This laboratory exercise is used in a senior level course in forest pathology to further introduce students to fungi and wood decay. Students culture fungi on agar, practice sterile technique, learn the importance of pure cultures, compare imperfect and basidiomycete fungus growth, perform Koch's Postulates, and set up a simple wood decay test in jars. After eight weeks students determine the amount of decay resulting to small wood blocks based on weight loss occurring to the blocks. No flames or hazardous materials are used in the laboratory. The exercise requires a 2-3 h lab period to set up.

Key words: Teaching, wood decay, forest pathology, brown rot, white rot.