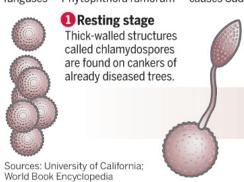
Sudden Oak Death culprit

This is the usual cycle for known species of funguslike substances. One variety of these funguses — Phytophthora ramorum — causes Sudden Oak Death.



Reproduction

Saclike structures called sporangia grow and produce zoospores inside.



Migration

When mature, the spores are released and probably transported by water, soil and air to trunks of new trees.



The spores grow hyphae, threadlike cells that, in trees,

invade the inner bark.

The fungus destroys the inner bark, which carries food from the leaves to other parts of the tree. The tree slowly dies.





5 The cycle repeats

Cankers form in the bark. The fungus produces new chlamydospores, and the disease cycle starts over.

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP