



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Casuarina butt rot (195)



Photo 1. *Ganoderma applanatum* growing from the base (butt) of *Casuarina equisetifolia*. Note that the fruit body is flat, brown above, and white underneath.



Photo 2. Close-up of a fruit body of *Ganoderma applanatum*, showing the brown, bumpy, topside and the white underside.



Photo 3. *Casuarina equisetifolia* killed by *Ganoderma applanatum*.

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Temperate, sub-tropical and tropical. An important disease.
- On *Casuarina* and many broadleaf and fir trees, causing rots in the heartwood of roots, butts, stems.
- Difficult to detect: yellowing, slower growth, dieback, death. Trees become susceptible to be blowing over in the wind.
- Fruit body grey-brown, up to 50 cm, uneven with rings, on dead or living trees, white below with pores.
- Spread by root-to-root contact and/or spore infections.
- Cultural control. There is no control. Once a tree is infected it will die. When brackets are first seen, it is best to remove the tree to prevent infection of those nearby. Avoid wounding trees.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

### Common Name

Casuarina butt rot. Also see **Fact Sheet no. 004** for butt and root rots of other trees.

### Scientific Name

*Ganoderma applanatum*. The fungus was previously known as *Fomes applanatus*. The common name for the fungus is the Artist's Conk.

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Photos 1&3 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia. Photo 2 Wikipedia: *Ganoderma applanatum*. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganoderma\\_applanatum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganoderma_applanatum)).

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