

Whitenose syndrome

Pseudogymnoascus destructans

Description

Believed to have been introduced from Europe or Asia but native range is still unknown. No known route of introduction. First photographed during the winter of 2005-2006 near Albany, New York.

Identification

Cold loving fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats, which is fatal. It produces brown or grey colonies and secretes a brownish pigment.

Hosts

Native to Europe or Asia.

Reproduction

Grows very slowly on artificial media and cannot grow at temperatures above 20 degrees Celsius. Reproduces asexually by a curved conidia.

Impact

Impacts hibernating bats when body temperature decreases. Bats develop visible fungal growth on nose or wings and may awaken more frequently. They may also experience weight loss, dehydration, electrolyte imbalances and death. Spread primarily by the natural movement of infected bats.



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Midwest Invasive Species
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