Nectria Fungi
- Three species are associated with beech bark disease: *N. galligena* (a native pathogen), *N. coccinea var. faginata* (an exotic pathogen introduced from Europe), and *N. ochroleuca* (found in association with beech bark disease in Pennsylvania, W. Virginia, and Ontario).
- Produce tiny, bright red fruiting bodies called perithecia that occur in clusters on living or dead bark.
- Infects localized areas of the bark and inner bark, killing it in linear strips.
- Infection occurs through damage resulting from scale feeding.
- Leaves of infected trees do not mature and become yellowish. Crowns appear thin and raggedy.

Stages of Beech Bark Disease Invasion
- **The Advancing Front**—refers to stands affected by beech scale but not infected by *Nectria*. Estimated to spread at roughly 6 miles per year.
- **The Killing Front**—*Nectria* infection is abundant here, with still high populations of beech scale. Tree mortality is high.
- **The Aftermath Front**—refers to stands that have experienced mortality due to beech bark disease. Populations of beech scale have decreased. Most remaining beech trees here are defective and declining. Some large trees remain by either escaping scale infestation or by being partially resistant.