DRY ROT

What is Dry Rot (Brown Rot)

- It is caused by the fungus *serpula lacrymans* which attacks damp timber
- The fungi attacks timber, eating the cellulose in the wood
- It is called dry rot because the timber eventually becomes dry and crumbly
- Areas in a house prone to dry rot:
  - Floor joists that are not vented properly
  - Roof timbers subject to leaks
  - Joists in contact with damp walls

Required Conditions

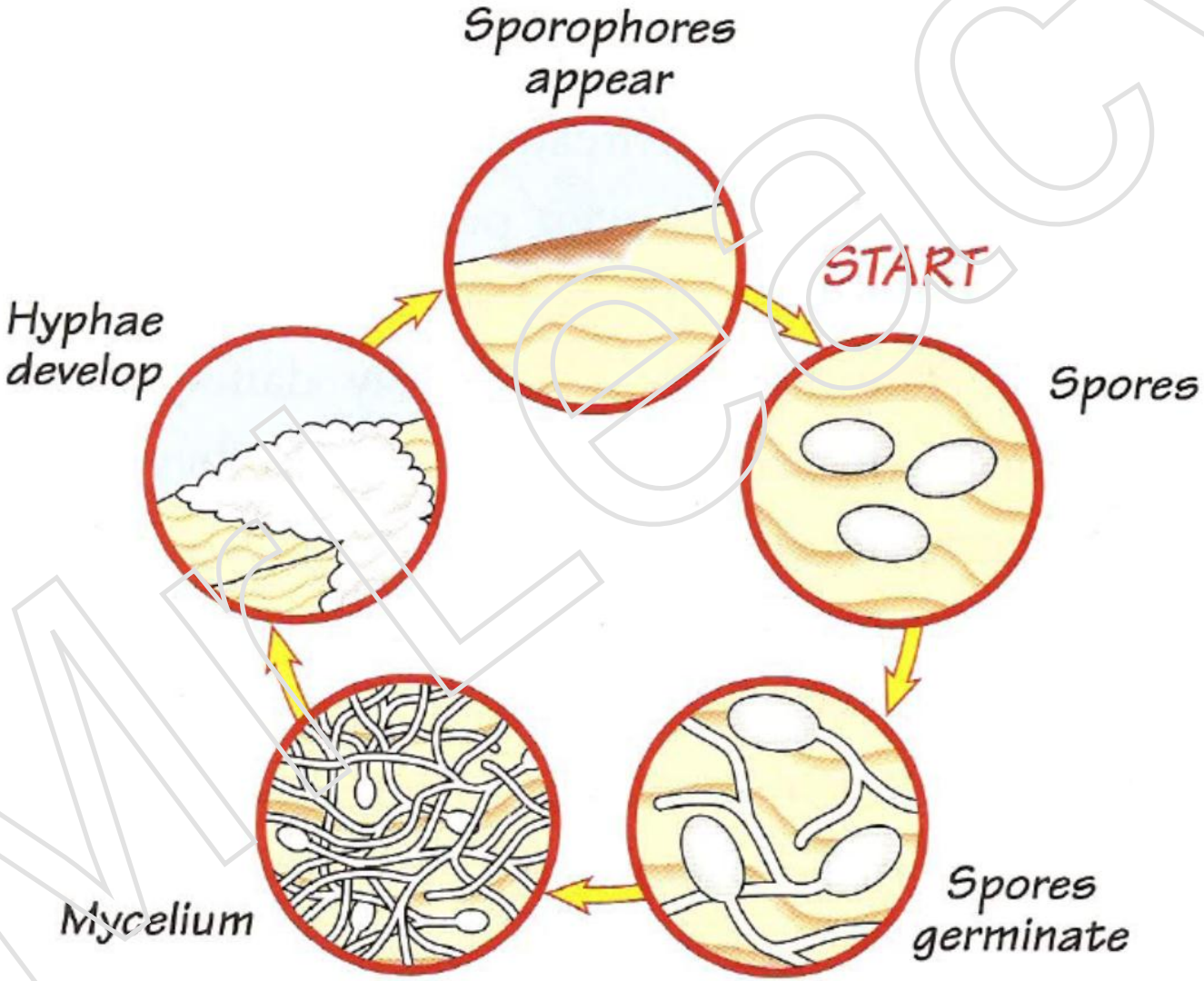
- Moisture (Moisture content between 20% and 30%)
- Food Supply (Wood)
- Oxygen (particularly still air)
- Warmth

How Dry Rot Develops

- *Video*

1. Spores (seeds) of dry rot are blown around in the air
2. They land on damp wood and send out very fine hair-like roots into the wood (can only be seen through microscope)
3. Roots spread through the wood using up all it's moisture causing the wood to dry out
4. A thick fleshy mat of tiny orange fruit bodies forms on the surface of the wood
5. When the fruit bodies ripen they shoot out millions of spores

Dry Rot Lifecycle



Treatment

1. All infected wood and uninfected timber 500mm beyond the infected wood is cut away and burnt
2. All surrounding brickwork and other materials must be scorched or treated with a fungicide to kill any remaining infections
3. All remaining timber and blockwork must be treated with preservative
4. The cause of the outbreak must be identified and corrected (e.g. improve ventilation)
5. Replacement timber must be treated with preservative

- Video

Prevention

- Only use timber of a moisture content below 20%
- Keep the timber this dry
- Treat timber with preservative