

WHAT IS OAK WILT?

The following outline is designed to provide you with essential information regarding the detection and treatment of Oak Wilt

- ❖ Oak wilt is a fungus that begins from a wound in an oak tree where beetles carrying the fungus on their body deposit fungal spores.
- ❖ An infected tree begins to turn golden brown from the top down during the months of late June through August.
- ❖ Once a tree contracts the disease and starts a new infection there is no way to stop the disease from spreading without professional guidance.
- ❖ An infected tree, if not treated will pass the Oak Wilt fungus on to healthy oak trees through their common root systems. Cutting down an infected tree will push the fungus to healthy trees faster.
- ❖ Treatment involves isolating the disease outbreak. Generally a vibratory plow line or herbicides are used to sever root systems or kill root systems between healthy and diseased trees. Some healthy looking trees have to be sacrificed to contain the infection.
- ❖ All living trees within the control line are treated with an herbicide to insure no active root systems survive.
- ❖ In areas of rock, where plowing is not possible, control lines are strategically placed and created with the herbicide.
- ❖ During December and January, after treatment, all trees from the infection area are removed.
- ❖ Wood from diseased trees to be used for firewood must be covered in plastic, for one year (per the attachment), to stop fungal spread. Otherwise diseased wood and branches down to 3 inches in diameter must be burned or taken to an approved waste site.
- ❖ **Never cut prune or injure an oak tree from April 15 to August 15 to prevent infections!!**

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