



Our business is people and their love for trees®

Dutch Elm Disease

Since 1930, Dutch Elm Disease has killed millions of American elm trees across the United States. Millions of dollars have been spent researching this disease, yet few treatment options are available once a tree has become infected.

Today, however, arborists have more ways to combat this disease. We have found that preventive fungicide injections can help protect American elms for two to three years. During the years we have been treating elms, we have lost very few elms that were disease-free when treated. Combining these treatments with proper pruning, SoilCareSM and mulching provides an additional layer of protection.

It is critical that any elm expressing more than 15% wilt be removed quickly. The disease can be spread from dead trees by bark beetles that travel between diseased and healthy trees. Not only must the tree be removed, but the wood must be ground up into wood chips. Elm bark beetles will lay their eggs under the bark, even in piles of elm firewood. When the adult beetles emerge, they may fly to a healthy tree and spread the disease through their feeding activities. Monitoring your elms and quickly removing infected limbs are also key.

Call your local certified arborist today to check your trees and develop a prevention plan.



Dutch Elm Disease Quick Facts:

- Insecticide applications are no longer considered the most effective method of treatment.
- Fungicide injections cannot prevent infections resulting from root graft transmission or help trees that express more than 15% wilt. Trees with less than 15% wilt may still be lost.
- High value trees should be properly cared for **before** the disease invades the tree.
- Severely infested and dead trees should be removed as quickly as possible to help prevent spread of the disease.
- Wood chips from diseased trees are generally safe to use in the landscape.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local office for further details.



Top: Early wilt symptoms in an American Elm; Left and Center: crown symptoms on large street trees; Right: a once magnificent elm which has completely died as a result of Dutch Elm Disease.

Top, left and center photos courtesy of: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org