

# WHAT DOES AN OAK WILT PROTECTIVE ZONE MEAN FOR YOU?

Oak wilt, a serious disease that kills oak trees, has been confirmed in several towns across New York State. Infected trees in the red oak group (leaves with pointed tips as in scarlet oak, pin oak, black oak, etc.) typically die within a few weeks. Oaks in the white oak group (leaves with rounded tips as in white oak, swamp white oak, scrub oak, etc.) are also killed, though it may take years. DEC has issued emergency orders that establish Protective Zones around the infected areas to help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

## What is an oak wilt Protective Zone?

An oak wilt Protective Zone is a quarantine area put in place around a neighborhood, town or county after oak wilt is confirmed there. Oak wilt Protective Zones have been established in the towns of Canandaigua and Glenville, the borough of Brooklyn, and all of Suffolk County.

## Why are the oak wilt Protective Zones in place?

The goal of an oak wilt Protective Zone is to prevent the spread of the disease by prohibiting the movement of potentially infected oak wood. Oak wilt can be spread by beetles that come into contact with fungal spore mats which form under the bark of trees killed by the disease. These spore mats can attract several kinds of beetles which pick up the spores as they crawl around. When these beetles fly to new trees, they bring the fungus with them, potentially spreading the disease to new areas. Infected oak firewood, logs, and branch debris can also contain spore mats, so moving these materials contributes to the spread of the disease.

### Prohibited from leaving the protective zone

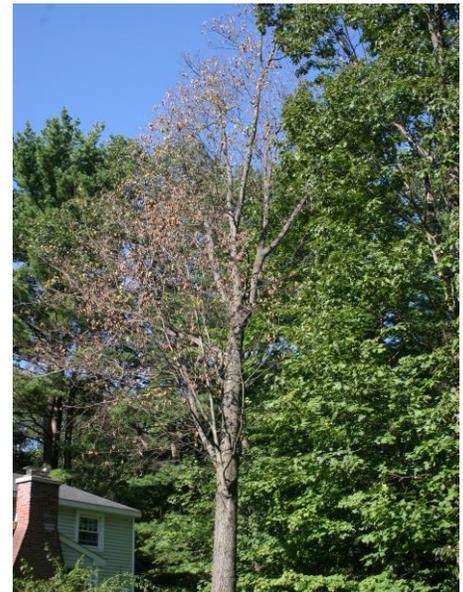
- Oak logs or branches
- Wood pieces less than 29 inches long, no matter the species

### Allowed to leave the protective zone

- Chipped wood (must be 1" by 1" or smaller)
- Wood pieces 29 inches long or greater from trees other than oak.

## Why can't I move firewood from the Protective Zone?

Once wood is cut to firewood size, it is difficult to tell one species from another. To account for the difficulty in identification and make sure no infected oak wood is moved out of the protective zone, wood pieces less than 29 inches in length are prohibited from leaving the area, regardless of species.



Oak wilt-killed tree



Spore pads, like the black area shown in this photo, may be present in infected trees and firewood.

## What is DEC doing about oak wilt in my neighborhood?

### Monitoring

DEC will conduct aerial surveys over and around the oak wilt Protective Zones in July and August to locate trees showing symptoms of oak wilt. Field crews will check these, as well as neighboring oaks, through ground surveys and sampling to determine if they are infected with oak wilt. When symptomatic trees are located on private property, owners will be contacted before ground surveys or sampling take place. Field crews will also check trees reported by homeowners.



Aerial and ground surveys will help locate new infected trees

### Management

After surveys have been completed, DEC will develop site plans and activities to manage oak wilt dependent on the extent of the infected areas.

- Isolated, small infection centers will be treated with the goal of eliminating the disease from the area.
- In larger infection centers, plans will focus on control and limiting the spread of the disease.

Activities will include establishing Protective Zones, and may also include the removal of infected trees, removal of nearby non-infected oak trees to prevent the spread of oak wilt through tree roots, and/or the installation of trenches to sever root connections. As with surveying, property owners will be informed of the management strategy for oak wilt at their site prior to conducting any activities.

## What can I do?

- Follow the quarantine regulations and don't move infected oak or firewood out of an oak wilt Protective Zone.
- Visit DEC's website at [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html) to learn about the symptoms of oak wilt.
- Take pictures of trees showing symptoms and/or make note of the location.
- Report symptomatic trees to DEC's Forest Health Unit using the phone or email below.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Forest Health

Division of Lands and Forests

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233

P: 1-866-640-0652 | F: 518-402-9028 | [foresthealth@dec.ny.gov](mailto:foresthealth@dec.ny.gov)

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

Updated March 10, 2017



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.