

Guidance on Oak Wilt for NWACA Residents

PREVENTION TECHNIQUES

1. Learn about Oak Wilt
Study Oak Wilt basics (see items on NWACA web site)
Inform neighbors including those who may be new to Austin
2. Prune Properly
DO NOT PRUNE OAKS February through June (peak carrier beetle season)
Plan your pruning well ahead of time. The best time to prune oaks is during a safe season when growth is dormant and the carrier beetles are inactive, usually November through January. The hot summer months are also safe times to prune, but the trees are still growing and may develop unwanted sucker growth.
Sterilize tools with bleach or alcohol (Clorox, Lysol, etc.)
Employ certified arborists and their firms (avoid scam artists)
NWACA strongly recommends that you employ only certified arborists to prune your valuable oaks. Avoid the uncertified tree service vendors who roam the neighborhoods and perform unsafe Oak Wilt practices. Find local certified arborists and check with the Better Business Bureau:
<http://texasoakwilt.org/find-a-vendor/certified-arborists> *Search by name/location, ZIP or ID*
www.BBB.org *Search by ZIP and vendor name*
www.austin.citysearch.com *Check local reviews for a vendor*
3. Treat Wounds Properly
Immediately paint wounds with pruning paint or latex paint
Carrier beetles may be **attracted within 15 minutes** to untreated cuts/ wounds
4. User Firewood Properly
Select well-seasoned firewood (unseasoned wood might be contaminated)
Select Oak Wilt-free firewood (no fungal mat contamination)
5. Monitor Utility Easement Clearing Activities
Review easement projects with city project manager
Inspect actual work for equipment sterilization and wound treatment
6. Plant trees other than Live Oaks or Red Oaks
Read the posting about Recommended Trees for Central Texas

CONTAINMENT TECHNIQUES – IF OAK WILT OCCURS

1. Trenching
Involves digging a trench to bed rock
These are major neighborhood projects costing about \$100,000 each
2. Infected Tree Injection
Contract only with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified Arborist (TOWC arborist)
Recommend “macro injection”
See vendors here: http://www.texasoakwilt.org/Vendors/certified_vendor.php
3. Infected Tree Removal
Contract with a Certified Arborist or Board Certified Master Arborist
Remove Red Oaks quickly to prevent fungal mat risk (Austin City Ordinance)

NWACA FINANCIAL SUPPORT

NWACA can provide financial assistance to property owners dealing with Oak Wilt. Over the years a number of our members have made generous donations to fund efforts to suppress Oak Wilt in our neighborhoods. With these funds, NWACA can reimburse forty percent of a homeowner's expenses, up to a maximum \$1,000 reimbursement. NWACA policy requires that a property owner obtain an assessment of Oak Wilt infection, or risk of infection in healthy oaks, from an arborist certified by the American Society of Arboriculture. (See link provided above.)

Along with the assessment, the arborist should provide an oak wilt suppression plan specifying either therapeutic treatment for infected trees or preventive treatment for at-risk healthy oaks near infected oaks. The NWACA Board of Directors must consider and act on an oak wilt suppression plan *in advance of* a property owner's commitment of any expenditure for which reimbursement is requested. For more information send email to nwacainfo@gmail.com