

The **Oak Wilt Coalition** is a partnership between private, nonprofit and governmental organizations. Led by the Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM), the partnership includes representatives from Michigan State University, Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development, ReLeaf Michigan, Michigan Forest Association, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, electric utilities and private companies.

How do I report Oak Wilt?

Suspected cases of oak wilt can be reported in several ways:

E-mail: DNR-FRD-Forest-Health@michigan.gov

Midwest Invasive Species Information Network:
www.misin.msu.edu

MICHIGAN OAK WILT QUALIFIED



by the Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM)

How do I find an Oak Wilt Qualified specialist?

An Oak Wilt Qualified specialist is a professional in arboriculture/forestry who has technical oak wilt training and has passed an exam

on identification and management of oak wilt. They also are required to either be an ISA Certified Arborist, Certified Forester, or hold a 4 year degree in a related field. To find out more, visit:

www.michiganoakwilt.org.

**For more information visit :
www.MichiganOakWilt.org**

PROTECT YOUR OAKS!

PRUNE IN LATE FALL AND WINTER

 *Michigan* **OakWilt.org**TM

What is Oak Wilt?

Oak wilt is an exotic, invasive and lethal disease of oak trees. This fungus, *Bretziella fagacearum*, clogs the water conducting vessels of the infected tree causing them to wilt, and ultimately die.

What trees are impacted?

Trees in the red and white oak groups are susceptible to oak wilt. However, if red oaks become infected, they will die in as little as 3 weeks. Trees in the white oak group are more tolerant of the disease and may live for years after infection.

Why do we care?

Oak trees are valuable landscape trees, and make up a large portion of Michigan's native forests. Oaks provide food and shelter for wildlife. Michigan DNR recently estimated the total value of standing red oak timber at more than \$1.6 Billion.

When a red oak tree becomes infected, it will die. Though research continues, today there is no known cure. However, adjacent oak trees can be protected and the spread of disease stopped when oak wilt is confirmed at the site and proper measures are taken.

How can I tell if my oak trees are infected?

Watch for these symptoms in red oaks:

- In June, July or August, often near the top of the tree, leaves discolor to a dull, olive green.
- Discolored leaves then wilt from the top of the tree downward, and additional leaves quickly become brown or bronzed.
- **Rapid leaf drop** occurs as the disease progresses. Infected trees are almost entirely defoliated within a few weeks! Fallen leaves usually are brown at the tips and margins and sometimes green at the base. (see photos)



Oak trees killed due to pruning during infection period.

How is it spread?

Oak wilt moves from tree to tree in two ways:

1. Insects carry spores from infected oak trees or wood cut from infected trees to injured or freshly pruned trees;
2. The fungus moves from infected trees to nearby healthy trees through connected root systems (root grafts).



Rapid leaf drop, and discoloration caused by oak wilt.



What can you do to prevent oak wilt?

- Prune oak trees in late fall and winter. If pruning becomes absolutely necessary at other times of the year **ALWAYS immediately** cover all oak tree wounds with tree wound paint or latex paint.
- DON'T move firewood. Movement of infected wood is a significant cause of new oak wilt infection centers.



Pruning oaks in winter avoids risk of oak wilt infection.

Think you have an oak wilt infected tree?

Contact an Oak Wilt Qualified specialist at www.michiganoakwilt.org. They can help manage oak wilt infections and protect nearby healthy oaks from the fungus which moves through shared roots.

 **Michigan OakWilt.org™**