



# Dutch Elm Disease

## What is Dutch elm disease?

Dutch elm disease (DED) is caused by a deadly fungus that was introduced to North America from Europe in the 1920s. The disease is spread by elm bark beetles that carry the fungus to healthy trees, or by root grafting. The fungus stops the flow of water within an infected tree, quickly killing it.

The American elm is very susceptible to DED, while Siberian elms are usually tolerant. Disease symptoms usually appear first on a single branch, with wilting and yellowing leaves, with more of the tree affected as the disease progresses.



## How can we manage DED to protect Saskatchewan's elms?

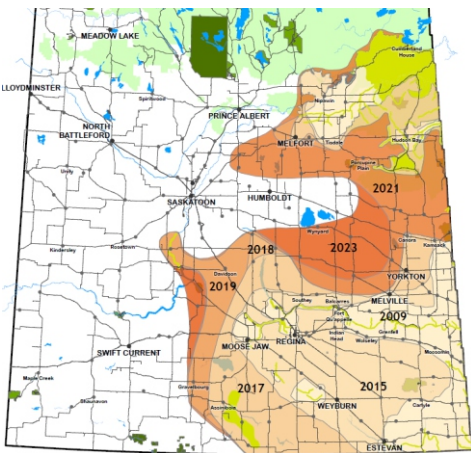
As management is challenging in wild stands and rural areas, protection efforts are most effectively focused on urban forests, slowing disease spread by promptly identifying, removing and properly disposing of DED-infected trees.

Other management tools include:

- pruning programs;
- beetle population control;
- public awareness programs;
- planting diverse tree species; and
- research.



## Dutch elm disease has spread through the eastern half of Saskatchewan.



1981 - Saskatchewan's first case was a single tree in Regina in 1981, which was removed. The next detection was in 1990, in a park near Estevan. Since then, DED has become established, spreading east to west along river valleys with native American elm stands, including:

- Cumberland Delta
- Carrot and Red Deer river valleys
- Northeast Qu'Appelle Valley
- Souris River in southeast

## Elm tree "look-alikes".

It can be hard to tell the difference between trees just by looking at the bark. American elm bark (left) is rough and coarse, light grey to dark greyish-brown to silver gray, with intersecting "X" or diamond-shaped deep ridges.



## Do not prune elms from April 1 to August 31.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- storm damaged trees
- authorization from a ministry or municipal inspector
- municipal or Crown corp. employees who consider it necessary to ensure public safety or to avoid property damage
- shearing of an elm hedge
- completely removing an elm tree, and treating or removing the stump below ground level.



**It is illegal to prune any elms during the annual ban period from April 1 to August 31. Fresh cuts attract the beetles that spread DED, and they're active during this time!**

Any time of year, dispose of elm wood properly, using the method and location designated by your local municipality.

## Do **NOT** store, transport or use elm firewood. It is against the law.

No person may store, use, sell or transport any elm tree for use as firewood or for any other purpose without authorization.



## Dispose of elm material properly and promptly.

Dispose of elm wood from pruning removing a tree at the nearest elm disposal site for the municipality in which the tree is located, during the next operating hours of the disposal site.

Operators of elm disposal sites must ensure they dispose of wood in a timely manner by:

- burning all bark from the elm tree; and
- completely burying the elm tree, covered with at least 25 cm of soil.



**Dispose of elm wood here**

Removal of material from this site may result in prosecution

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# Stop the spread of Dutch elm disease.

Do not use elm firewood and dispose of elm wood properly.

1-800-567-4224

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