

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



June 2024

President's Message

We are already planning our next Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 5, 2025. The Delhi German Home is already booked. We would really appreciate your thoughts about what speakers, events and exhibits we could include to make the upcoming AGM the best and most fun ever. Thanks.

Our second guest speaker, Adam Biddle, Norfolk Supervisor Forestry Parks gave a very helpful guide on the To Dos and Not To Dos when harvesting your woodlot. Lack of time precluded including a summary of his helpful and useful information in this newsletter. But we plan to include it in our next Newsletter.

Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees, caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum**. The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees, restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree. Some oak species are more vulnerable than others and can die within a year of infection. In some severe cases, red oaks mortality can occur within 2-6 weeks following infection.

Oak wilt has been confirmed in 24 U.S. states, some of which border Ontario. The disease was confirmed in Niagara Falls, Ontario in May 2023, making it the first known case of oak wilt in Canada. The origin of the fungus is unknown, but it is believed to have been present in North America since the early 1900's.

Oak Wilt is an invasive fungus that kills oak trees. There is no cure for Oak Wilt. So, prevention and early detection are currently the most effective and low-cost solutions for managing oak wilt. We can help minimize the spread of the Oak Wilt disease in Norfolk by NOT pruning or wounding oaks between April 1st and November 15th. This is considered the high-risk period when the sap beetles that spread the disease are active. Paint any cuts or abrasions that occur during the high-risk period with wound paint. DO NOT move firewood. Oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood.

Applying a benomyl-containing fungicide keeps high-value trees free of the fungus. Use a wetting agent with the fungicide improves coverage on the waxy leaf surface. All species of oaks are susceptible, but young red oak trees are the most severely damaged. Small, distinct reddish brown spots form on diseased leaves.

To control cost, NWOA newsletters are emailed to NWOA members and posted on NWOA website. The few who do not have internet are still being mailed out, courtesy of our Newsletter Editor, Dr John Morrissey.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and AGM. To make them fun and informative, we require your feedback to show what is of interest. Thanks. You can post them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us " to complete the message box), direct email at membership@norfolkwoodlots.com .

If you have any questions, please contact us at

Mail: Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association
c/o Norfolk County – Forestry Department
185 Robinson Street, Suite 100
Simcoe, ON N3Y 5L6

NWOA website: www.norfolkwoodlots.com

NWOA email: membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

Thanks,

John de Witt, President

Have you renewed your membership for 2024?

Members can renew their membership online, using the OWA website.

Go to: <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/Sys/Login>

If you have never logged into your profile, enter the e-mail address that is on your account and select “**Forgot Password**”

The system will send a temporary password where you will be asked to create your own password.

Once you are into your profile, there will be an option to renew your membership.

2024 AGM Photos



Nancy Candy-Harding, Joelle Giles, Mary Gartshore, Ian Fife



Mark Bacro, Mike Penner, Dr Bob Dukelow, Adam Biddle

Oak Wilt

An Invasive Pathogen Threatening Oak Trees in Canada



P Kurzeja, Forest Health Division, Michigan D. N. R.

What is it?	Trees at risk:	Where is it?
<p>Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees, caused by the fungus <i>Bretziella fagacearum</i>. The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees, restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree.</p>	<p>All oak species are susceptible and at risk. The red oak group (red, black, pin) is the most susceptible, with mortality frequently occurring within one growing season. Oaks in the white oak group (white, bur) are also affected but are more resistant.</p>	<p>Oak wilt has spread throughout the Eastern United States. In 2023, oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in Canada in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Additional infected sites have been confirmed in Ontario.</p>

Signs and Symptoms:



Invasive Species Centre

- Leaves turn dull green, brown or yellow
- Discoloration of leaves progressing from the edge of the leaf to the middle
- Wilting and bronzing of foliage starting at top of the tree and moving downwards
- Premature leaf fall (including green leaves)
- White, grey or black fungal mats just under the bark that emit a fruity smell
- Vertical bark cracks in the trunk and large branches as a result of the fungal spore mats (also referred to as pressure pads) exerting outward pressure on the bark


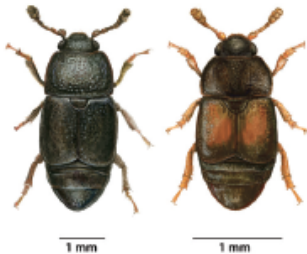

Impacts:



D.W. French, University of Minnesota, Bugwood.org

- Impacts property values and neighbourhood aesthetics
- Increased costs with tree maintenance, removal and replacement
- Loss of a valued shade tree
- Negative impacts to the forestry industry and production of high value oak products
- Reduction in food source for forest animals provided by oak trees
- Loss of habitat for some species
- Reduction of ecological services (air and water filtering)
- Safety and liability issues

How is oak wilt spread?

Roots	Insects	Humans
<p>The disease spreads from infected trees to uninfected trees of the same species through root-to-root contact.</p>	<p>Insects such as sap-feeding nitidulid beetles can move spores from infected trees to healthy trees.</p>	<p>Movement of wood products, (particularly those with bark), such as firewood can spread the pathogen over long distances as they can harbor fungal mats.</p>
		
<p>James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry</p>	<p>Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>

What can you do?

There is no cure for oak wilt infected trees. The best approach is to avoid or reduce infection in areas where disease occurs by:

- Identifying and removing diseased trees
 - Preventing or severing root connections between diseased and healthy trees
 - Minimizing wounds on healthy trees during the flight period of potential insect carriers
- **DO NOT** prune oak trees from April to July. If pruning must occur, or if a tree is injured, apply a thin layer of wound paint immediately.
 - **DO NOT** move firewood. Oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood.

If you see signs and symptoms of oak wilt, report the sightings to:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/contact-us/eng/1299860523723/1299860643049>
- EDDMapS
<https://www.eddmaps.org>
- Invading Species Hotline
1-800-563-7711

For more information on oak wilt visit:

- Oak wilt species profile on the Forest Invasives Canada website
<http://forestinvasives.ca/Meet-the-Species/Pathogens/Oak-Wilt>

Produced in collaboration with:



OAK WILT PREVENTION

What can municipalities do?

- Bring attention of the threat of oak wilt to municipal leaders and decision makers.
 - Attend city council meetings
 - Speak with forestry managers
- Be aware of what surrounding municipalities are doing and not doing, work together where you can.
- Increase oak wilt surveillance, encourage public participation. Tips:
 - Staff training
 - Attending workshops, training sessions, and webinars
 - Requesting information
 - Create or acquire fact sheets and make them available for staff and the public
 - Make being up to date on threats as part of someone's regular duties
 - Ensure that field staff, arborists, foresters, and community members are knowledgeable on:
 - When to prune oak trees
 - Oak wilt symptoms
 - The use of pruning paint when pruning oaks
 - How to report suspect finds
- Implement public outreach on oak wilt and firewood movement.
 - Reach out to local media/news agencies
 - Engage audiences through social media
 - Attend local trade shows and expos
 - Host public information sessions
 - Connect with local NGOs and private organizations and develop new partnerships
 - Include messaging at local parks and in public spaces
- Hire oak wilt certified arborists, or encourage your city arborists to gain oak wilt certification.
- Issue pruning contracts for utility pruning to take place during low risk periods.
- Develop proper sanitation methods and waste treatments for pruned clippings and waste. Suitable options include:
 - Burning or burying;
 - Debarking, splitting, or drying;
 - Processing into lumber chips for mulching or fuel; or
 - Processing into firewood (cover with plastic and seal between April and August)
- Use pruning paint if pruning must be done during high-risk periods.
- Identify vulnerable resources, conduct an oak inventory.
- Have an action plan in place in case of oak wilt detections in your municipality, especially in border communities or communities that see high traffic in and out of the area.

If you think you've seen oak wilt, report your sighting to www.eddmaps.org, 1-800-563-7711, or directly to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at cfia.surveillance-surveillance.acia@canada.ca.



Invasive
Species
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