



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

Oak Wilt Pruning Moratorium Begins April 1

With spring finally arriving to the Centre Region, the Township will be activating and enforcing its oak wilt pruning moratorium from April 1st through October 31st. The moratorium is put in place each year to minimize the spread of oak wilt.

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that clogs the water and nutrient conducting system of oak trees. All oak trees are susceptible, however, mortality is more prevalent in red oaks. Once infected, an otherwise healthy tree rapidly drops its leaves during the summer months and dies while adjacent non-infected trees still have green leaves.

Over time, the disease can spread to nearby oak trees through root grafting or long distances by sap-feeding beetles that carry the fungal spores to new trees.

Fortunately, Township Resolution 2016-32 provides Township staff with an aggressive management strategy to mitigate the spread of oak wilt within the growth boundary and outside the growth boundary within R1 and RR zones. Infected trees are removed immediately and all trees within a 150-foot radius are treated with fungicide to prevent the spread to surrounding trees. This service is provided at no cost to the property owners within the treatment area.

Residents with oak trees on their property are urged to remain vigilant and routinely look for signs of oak wilt. Early detection is key to minimizing the spread.

Please note:

- It is unlawful to prune oak trees from April 1 through October 31, when beetles are active.
- It is unlawful for individuals who work on your trees to use tree climbing spikes at any time of year except for the purpose of removing the tree.

For more information regarding oak wilt, please visit these useful links:

[Oak Wilt in Eastern Forests – PSU Extension](#)

[Oak Wilt – US Department of Agriculture Forest Service](#)

The region has experienced an uptick in cases of the twolined chestnut borer that can mimic oak wilt symptoms. Evidence of them often manifests itself with borer holes on the trunk of the tree. In some cases, this is the culprit, however an analysis by the Township Arborist will assist in determining that.

[What's Attacking My Oak Tree? – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Twolined Chestnut Borer - US Department of Agriculture Forest Service](#)

If you have any questions regarding your street trees or suspect oak wilt, please contact the Township at 814-238-4651 or email arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us.

Please remember, a Permit is required to perform work on Township-owned street trees. These trees are generally located in the Right-of-Way between the sidewalk and the curb. Some Rights-of-Way are not easily identifiable. A call to the Township can help you identify the responsible party.