



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

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Issue No. 6

Oak Wilt Pruning Moratorium to be Lifted November 1st

With fall finally arriving to the Centre region, the Township will be lifting its oak pruning moratorium from November 1 through March 31. The moratorium is currently in place 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' 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 minimize the spread. Ferguson Township experienced one confirmed case in 2022.

Please note:

- It is unlawful to prune oak trees from April 1 through October 31, when beetles that spread the fungus 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.
- Climbing spikes can open up wounds that make it easier for beetles to spread the fungus.

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

<https://extension.psu.edu/oak-wilt>

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5347329.pdf

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

Centre County has been added to the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine List. A Quarantine and Treatment Order is in place to help prevent the spread of spotted lanternfly in Pennsylvania. Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the Spotted Lanternfly through this useful link.

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/SpottedLanternflyAlert/Pages/default.aspx