

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/Ontario, 1-800-563-7711, or directly to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at cfia.surveillance-surveillance.acia@canada.ca.