

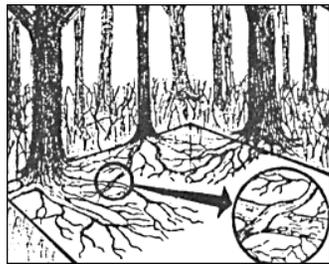
Oak Wilt is the Name of a Fungus and a Disease

There are two ways oaks can get infected with Oak Wilt.

Overland: The fungus is carried by the picnic beetle to a **fresh** wound on a healthy oak between mid-April and early-July. The tree is now infected.



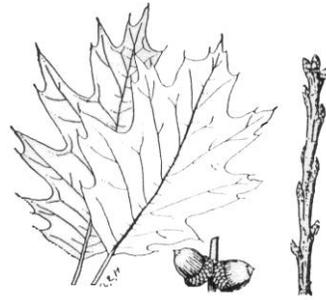
Underground: After that first oak dies, other oaks **of the same group** – connected via root grafts – will get infected. This is what an “**Infection Center**” is.



Rarely will a red oak join with a white oak and form root grafts. The

Infection Center grows outward, compounding oak mortality every year. Unless stopped, the problem gets worse.

Every year the majority of oaks die from root graft spread, not overland spread, of oak wilt disease.



Spores are the reproductive body of the fungus. In oak wilt, they are produced only on Red Oaks in either the spring or fall. Red Oaks that produce spores during spring can spread the disease overland.

Steps in Managing Oak Wilt

(1) Root Cutting

The most important part of Oak Wilt Control is **Root Cutting**, also called **Plowing**:

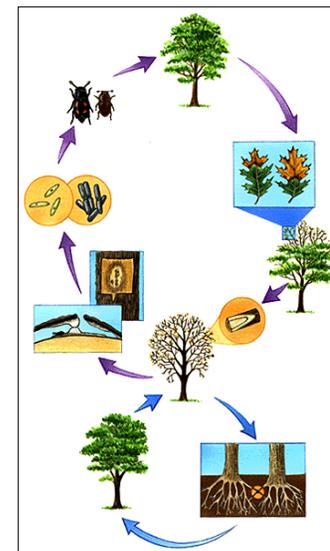


Landowners should not plan on plowing if they are not going to follow-up with spore tree removal/processing.

(2) Processing

Processing means drying out the tree in order to kill the oak wilt spores. Processing can be done one of two ways:

- Remove tree so no stump is exposed above ground, cutting wood into 16” lengths and splitting it leaving no more than 4” of bark surface area, then having it stacked (not tight) outdoors by mid February; **OR**
- Remove tree so no stump is exposed above ground, then stack logs (or any green wood greater than 4” diameter) in a pile and cover the pile by April 15 with 6 mil plastic. Plastic must be sealed into the ground to be air tight.



Landowners can minimize oak mortality by refraining from tree removal until plowing is done. **DON'T GO OUT AND CUT** down your oaks when you see them wilting.

Helpful Tips

Landowners can:

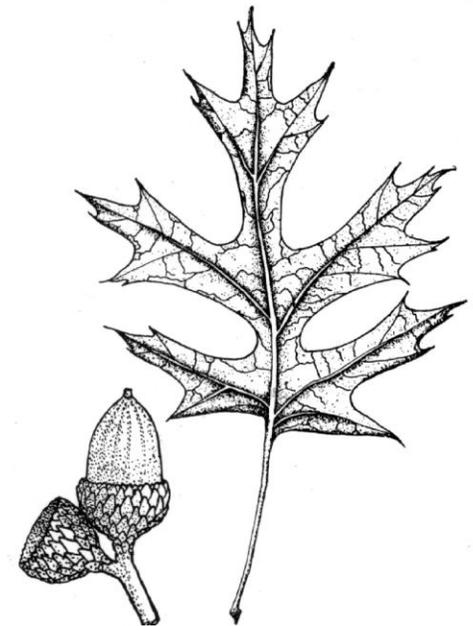
- Mark their oaks that have recently wilted.
- Check plow lines several times during summer looking for jumps across plow lines.
- Expect all oaks (of same group) inside the plow line to die.
- When building or remodeling, have tree removal/lot clearing done BEFORE April 15 or start AFTER July 1.
- **Get rid of** the infection by cutting to the line.

Important facts about oak wilt:

- Plow first, tree removal second.
- Plow line location is the most important factor
- Plowing down to a 54 inch depth or deeper is the next most important factor.
- Oak wilt control is 85% effective if follow-up tree removal is done, especially within 2 years after plowing.
- The only time wound dressings are needed on any tree in Minnesota is when an oak is wounded between April 15 and July 1. To be effective, the dressing must be applied immediately after wounding occurs. Applying wound dressing 48 hours or longer after wounding will not benefit the tree; the wound no longer attracts insects.
- Good oak wilt control means bringing the number of infection centers down to manageable levels.

Activity	Oak Wilt Activities Schedule											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Week	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
Bed Oak Spore Tree Checks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spore Tree Removal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Optimum Spore Tree Removal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Best time to Prune		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inspections						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Plowing						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Landowners Mark/Prune Wilted Oaks						X	X	X	X	X	X	X

OAK WILT SUPPRESSION IN ISANTI COUNTY



Steps to Manage Oak Wilt