STOP THE INVASION
PROTECT NEW YORK FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

PROTECT YOUR OAKS!

AVOID SPREADING OAK WILT
DON'T PRUNE IN SPRING AND SUMMER

Oak wilt is a serious fungal disease that kills thousands of oaks in the United States each year. There is no known treatment, so limiting exposure to the fungus is key to keeping it from spreading.

One way oak wilt spreads is when fungal spores hitch rides on insects. Sap beetles, one of the main culprits, are extremely attracted to fresh tree wounds and to the sweet smell given off by oak wilt spore mats growing under the bark of diseased trees. Pruning healthy oaks during the growing season greatly increases the chances of insects infecting them with oak wilt.

Leaf discoloration caused by oak wilt

PRUNE OAKS FROM OCTOBER TO FEBRUARY, WHEN INSECTS AND FUNGI ARE INACTIVE, TO AVOID THE THREAT OF OAK WILT.

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BENEFITS OF PRUNING IN FALL AND WINTER

- Diseases are rarely spread during this time, since insects and fungi are inactive.
- A tree's branch pattern and damaged limbs are easier to see without leaves.
- Leafless cut branches are lighter and easier to carry.
- Nearby plants are less likely to be damaged by falling branches and trampling.
- Removing weak and damaged branches before heavy snowfall reduces additional breakage.
- Trees pruned in fall/winter respond more vigorously in the spring, putting out new growth.

For questions, email the DEC Forest Health office **foresthealth@dec.ny.gov** or call the Forest Health Information Line 1-866-640-0652.

For more information, visit our Oak Wilt page **www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html**.

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