

We are proud of our trees. Generations have planted and nurtured them, but the tallest and most valuable trees in our “urban forest” are in danger of being destroyed by Dutch Elm Disease (DED). That is why City of Regina crews work 12 months of the year to keep our trees healthy, alive and free of the fungus which causes the disease. Join in saving our elms... **Fight Dutch Elm Disease.**

Why our elms are important?

Trees are a valuable resource. They shade our homes in the summer and provide a windbreak in the winter. They provide food and shelter for wildlife. Trees help remove pollutants from the air and produce the oxygen we breathe. They filter out noise in busy neighbourhoods. Our elms are an important part of our urban forest... and they need to be protected.

Why are our elms in danger?

Dutch Elm Disease is caused by a fungus which blocks the water-carrying tubules inside the tree and prevents water from reaching the crown and leaves. The tree dies because it is starved from moisture from the roots. There is no “sure cure” for the disease, and any trees found to have DED will be destroyed by City crews to prevent further infection.

The disease was introduced to eastern North America in the early 1930s and has been spreading across the continent. Elm populations in many cities have been devastated. The number of cases in our city has recently increased and hundreds of trees have had to be destroyed in nearby communities, such as Lumsden, Craven, White City and Sherwood Forest. Dutch Elm Disease is at our doorstep.

We can win the battle...
But we need your help.

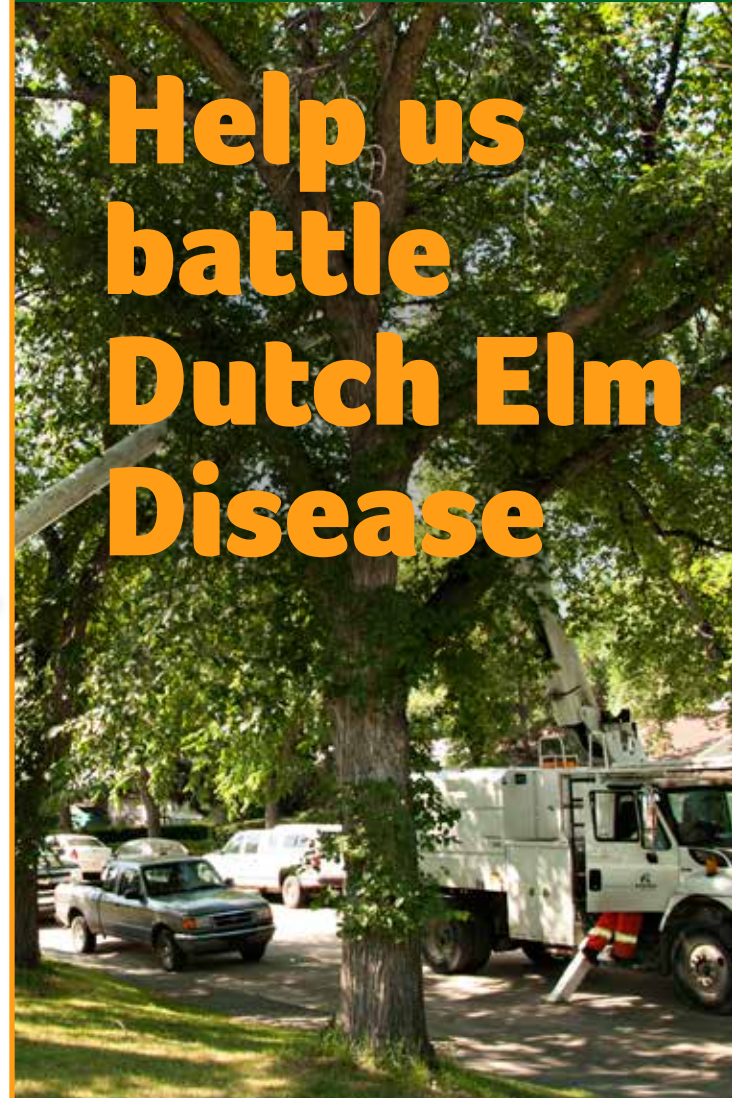


For more information on Dutch Elm Disease or to report symptoms of DED, phone 306-777-7000.



We're fighting to save our elms....

Help us battle Dutch Elm Disease



Knowing more is the first step...

Is it an elm?

The trees along your street are beautiful...but if you don't know whether they're elm trees, you won't know if they are in danger.

In many parts of the city, American elms grow to 80 feet or more, with a large, spreading umbrella-like canopy of limbs. Most of the large trees in the Crescents and Lakeview areas are American elms.

The leaves are oval-shaped, with a pointed tip and serrated edges.



Small, disk-shaped papery seeds form during the summer.

The bark is usually light to dark grey with a grooved surface.



Siberian or Manchurian elms are also susceptible to DED. They can take the form of shrubby hedges or single trees. The leaves are smaller and more elongated than those of the American elm. Seeds dispersed into lanes, vacant lots and other neglected spots often grown into shrubby elms.

DED can move from tree to tree underground where the roots of one elm mingle with those of an infected elm.

What are the symptoms of Dutch Elm Disease?

Because the disease blocks the water-conducting tubules, one of the first signs of DED is the wilting of leaves on one or more limbs. The leaves may turn yellow in the spring or summer. If the disease strikes in the late summer or autumn the leaves may turn brown but remain attached and do not fall to the ground.

Wilting is also a symptom of several other tree diseases, but it is better to be safe than sorry. If a tree looks like it may have DED, call the City at 306-777-7000 for an inspection.

If City staff believe a tree has the disease, they will send samples to the provincial laboratory for diagnosis. If the lab confirms that the tree has DED, it will be immediately removed and the wood will be taken away for safe disposal.

How is the disease spread?

Dutch Elm Disease is most often spread by the elm bark beetle which lives and breeds under the bark of elm trees. The beetle carries the DED spores from tree to tree, spreading the infection.

The beetle is usually not a strong flyer and seldom travels more than a few hundred yards at a time. But people assist the movement of the beetles and the disease by transporting elm firewood from campsites or cottages into the city. The disease is a deadly hitchhiker because you can't detect the very small beetles or the disease.

The disease can be spread on contaminated pruning equipment



What can I do to protect our elms?

Everyone can play a part in the battle against Dutch Elm Disease.

Here is what you can do:

- Fertilize, water and prune our trees regularly to keep them healthy. A healthy tree is better able to fight off disease.
- Do not bring firewood into the city or store elm wood on your property.
- Prune out dead or broken branches which can harbour the beetles. (Do not prune elms April 1 to August 31).
- Hire a professional pesticide applicator to spray your elms against elm bark beetles in the fall.
- Check the elms in your neighbourhood—both City-owned and privately-owned—and report symptoms of Dutch Elm Disease by calling 306-777-7000.

How is the City battling the disease?

The City of Regina fights Dutch Elm Disease in the following ways:

- **Monitoring Programs**—We check all elm trees for symptoms of DED and test suspicious trees for the fungus.
- **Pruning & Sanitation**—We keep City-owned trees healthy by regular pruning. Elm wood is immediately destroyed to prevent DED spread.
- **Inspection & Collection of Elm Firewood**—We inspect firewood to ensure that elm wood is not being transported or stored for use in city fireplaces. We collect and destroy elm firewood. (Provincial regulations prohibit the use of elm for firewood).
- **Spraying Against Elm Bark Beetle**—Each fall we spray the base of many City-owned elms to kill elm bark beetles hiding under the bark. These beetles spread the DED fungus.
- **Infill Planting**—When a tree is removed, we replace it with a tree species or variety which is not susceptible to DED.
- **Public Education**—We let you know all about DED so you can help in keeping our trees safe.
- **Research**—We are working with Canadian scientists on various research projects, such as field testing a possible "vaccination" against the fungus.