

The Town of Blackfalds is joining the rest of the Province in an effort to keep Dutch Elm Disease out of Alberta. With everyone's help and education we can keep our Elm trees alive and well.

What is Dutch Elm Disease?

Dutch Elm Disease or DED (*Ophiostoma ulmi*) is a fungal infection that can kill a mature tree in one growing season. The major carrier and transmitter of DED is believed to be Elm Bark Beetles. These beetles are attracted to the smell of dead and decaying Elm wood. It is for this reason that pruning of elm trees between April and October is restricted.

Hosts:

All species of Elm (*Ulmus*)

Remember Do Not Move Firewood

Moving firewood transports tree-killing insects and diseases like Dutch Elm. The bugs in your firewood can destroy our forests.

Visit www.inspection.gc.ca select plants, then forestry tabs for more information.

Why should we manage Dutch Elm Disease?

At present, according to the Alberta Agriculture website, Alberta has the largest DED-free American Elm stands in the world. A total of 219,334 elms, worth \$634 million dollars, grow in Alberta's urban areas. Alberta has been fortunate to remain DED free for many years however; in 1998 one elm tree in Wainwright was confirmed to have disease. The tree was immediately removed and burned. It is believed that firewood brought into the province was the source of infection. Alberta is still DED-free.

Physical Characteristics

DED causes vascular tissues to close off inhibiting the proper flow of sap, primarily causing the tree's leaves to wilt and turn brown, eventually the whole branch and tree will die. This process can take only a year or as long as a few years.

Controls

Although DED is not currently in our area, we would like to do everything we can to ensure that it remains this way.

Pruning of the elm tree between April 1 and October 1 is **restricted by government mandate**.

Preventative pruning is critical in winter months (Nov. 1 – Mar 31).

Clean and disinfect cutting blades after infected areas of the plant have been successfully removed.

Boosting plant health is essential for keeping all pests and disease at bay.

Diseased wood must be destroyed immediately by burning at the local transfer station.

Elm Bark Beetle is attracted to deadwood and is most easily transferred by transporting fire wood. **Leave fire wood where you found it or bought it.**

