

Help keep Alberta Dutch Elm Disease free

Don't transport firewood.

Whether you're travelling to another province or to your favourite campsite nearby, never transport firewood.

A single piece of firewood can destroy millions of trees. Hidden under the bark, there may be hundreds of pests carrying diseases. Moving firewood, even just a few kilometres away, can spread invasive insects and diseases to our forests.

It's just not worth the risk, because Dutch Elm Disease and other tree diseases can cause too much devastation.

Buy it locally.

Burn it on site.

Never bring it home.



DED prevention measures are enforced under the Agricultural Pests Act.

An urban forest of elm trees

In 1999, there was an Alberta-wide inventory of elm trees. The findings? Out of the 750,000 plus elms that grow in Alberta, 250,000 are in municipalities across our province. Up to 50% of tree stands in many municipalities are elm.

That's something worth protecting.

For more information on the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease:

www.stoppeded.org
1-877-837-ELMS (3567)



Government
of Alberta

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brochure are courtesy
Bugwood.org.

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STOP DUTCH ELM DISEASE



Learn how to identify elm trees
& prevent Dutch Elm Disease

DED can be prevented

Dutch Elm Disease prevention starts at home

Is it an elm tree?

For homeowners, the first step to Dutch Elm Disease (DED) prevention is to identify your elm trees. There are two main types of elm in Alberta.

American elm

These tall, umbrella-shaped trees are common boulevard trees throughout North America. The leaves are 7 to 15 cm long, with serrated margins and unequally round bases.



Siberian elm



These elm trees have a variety of forms, depending on location and pruning – from a shrubby hedge to a single tree similar to an American elm. The leaves are 2 to 7 cm long, with serrated margins and unequally round bases.

Identifying elm bark

The bark surface on elm trees is generally rough, deeply grooved and silver grey in colour. The bark on Siberian elm may be less deeply grooved.



DED symptoms

The impact of DED is visible on the leaves, with symptoms starting in late June.

The first sign of the disease is the sudden wilting, drooping and curling of leaves in the upper part of the tree.



Next, the leaves will change colour from green to yellow to brown and usually will remain on the tree.

If the tree is infected later in the summer, the leaves will droop, turn yellow and drop prematurely.



Infected branches will show brown stain under the bark. Infected elm trees will typically die in one to two years.

What causes DED?

The disease itself is caused by a fungus, which blocks the elm tree's water conducting system. Once infected, the tree will die in one to two years. There is no cure, only prevention.

The fungus is spread from tree-to-tree by three species of elm bark beetles, the European, native and banded. The beetles breed under the bark of dead or dying trees and, when the new generation emerges, they carry the fungal disease to new trees.

Important tips for homeowners

Do not store elm wood.

Adhere to the yearly pruning ban detailed below.

Proper pruning is essential. Prune dead or dying portions from October 1 to March 31, and ensure proper disposal of the trimmings by taking them to the landfill, burying or burning.

Keep elm trees healthy by watering them well from April to mid-August, with one to two good waterings before freeze-up.

Learn the symptoms of DED and report suspected infections to the DED Hotline at: 1-877-837-ELMS (3567).

Adhere to the yearly elm pruning ban

The elm bark beetle, which transports the DED fungus, is attracted to fresh wounds on elm trees. The Alberta elm pruning ban prohibits pruning when the beetles are the most active.

DON'T PRUNE ELM TREES FROM APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30.
For proper pruning, hire a professional arborist.

