

# Dutch Elm Disease

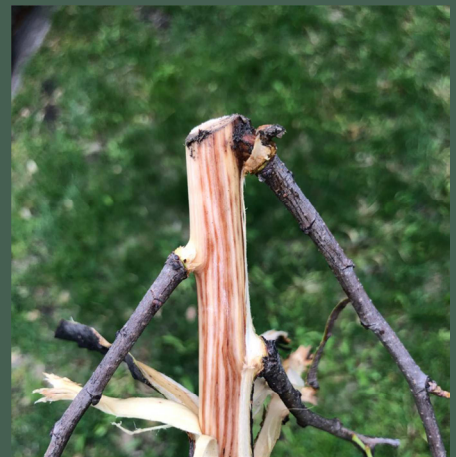


## WHAT IS DUTCH ELM DISEASE?

Dutch elm disease (DED) is caused by a fungus that blocks the tree's vascular tissue, preventing it from taking up water and nutrients. DED is spread among elm trees by the native elm bark beetle, as they carry the fungal spores with them when they fly from tree to tree. DED can also be spread underground through roots if the roots of infected trees are touching one another.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1. Sudden wilting or dropping of leaves on one or more major branches in the canopy
2. "Flagging" - yellow and brown curled leaves that stay on the tree
3. Early leaf drop
4. Brown or red streaks in the wood when the bark is peeled away



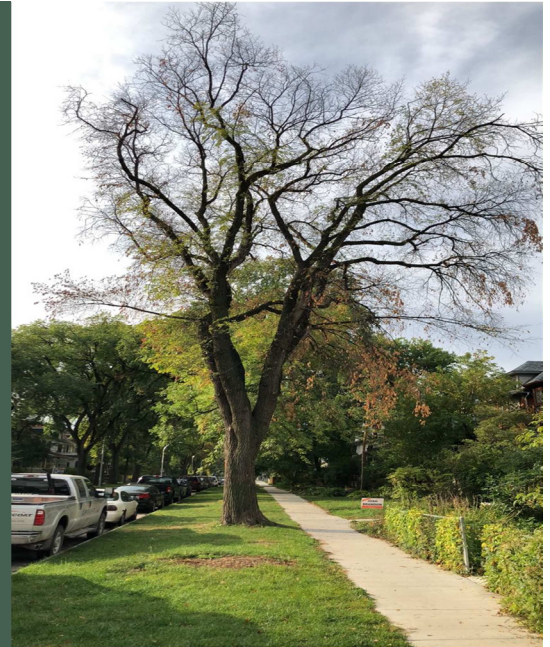


## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR TREE HAS DUTCH ELM DISEASE

The City of Winnipeg Urban Forestry Branch inspects all elm trees in Winnipeg for DED annually from mid-June to mid-September. If your elm tree looks unhealthy and you think it might have DED, please contact 311 - they will send in a service request to the Urban Forestry Branch and a technician will inspect your tree.

Phone: 311

Email: [311@winnipeg.ca](mailto:311@winnipeg.ca)



### How to identify an American elm

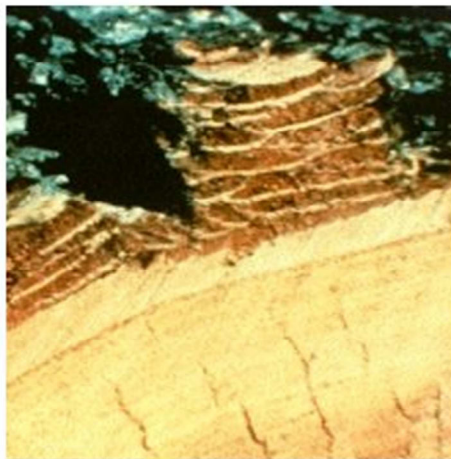
**Leaf:** Oval or egg-shaped with a pointed tip, with double serrated leaf margins. The base of the leaf where it connects to the stem is asymmetrical.

**Bud:** Alternate arrangement.

**Bark:** Deeply grooved in older trees, and can easily be broken off to observe alternating red and cream colored "wafers" in cross-section.

**Form:** Umbrella or vase-like canopy, often arching over streets to be almost as wide as the tree is tall.

AT APPROXIMATELY  
230,000; WINNIPEG  
IS HOME TO  
THE LARGEST  
POPULATION OF  
AMERICAN ELMS IN  
NORTH AMERICA



<http://treeswinnipeg.org/dutch-elm-disease/>

## Preventing Dutch Elm Disease

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Don't Move Firewood:** DED spores are spread by elm bark beetles and these beetles breed in dead or dying elm trees, so it is important to dispose of any elm branches or elm firewood on your property. You can dispose of elmwood at Brady Landfill, or you can burn it.

**Observe the Elm Pruning Ban:** Elm bark beetles are very attracted to freshly cut wood in the spring, so early spring pruning on an American elm can increase the likelihood the tree will get DED. For this reason, the elm pruning ban extends from April.1<sup>st</sup> to July.31<sup>st</sup> every year.

**Care and Maintenance:** Regular tree care, including watering and pruning, can help reduce stress on trees and help them become less susceptible to disease. Removing dead branches from the canopy can also help prevent DED.

**Fungicide Treatments:** Elm tree injections are an option. Injections are recommended for those who wish to protect healthy, high value elm trees on their property. There are several products available, and these treatments should be done by a professional arborist. For more information on how to find an arborist please visit: [treeswinnipeg.org/find-an-arborist/](http://treeswinnipeg.org/find-an-arborist/)

## Additional Information

THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES HAVE ADDITIONAL ON DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Province of Manitoba:

[gov.mb.ca/sd/environment\\_and\\_biodiversity/invasive\\_species/forests\\_and\\_lands/](http://gov.mb.ca/sd/environment_and_biodiversity/invasive_species/forests_and_lands/)

City of Winnipeg:

[winnipeg.ca/publicworks/parksOpenSpace/UrbanForestry/DED.stm](http://winnipeg.ca/publicworks/parksOpenSpace/UrbanForestry/DED.stm)

Trees Winnipeg:

[treeswinnipeg.org/dutch-elm-disease/](http://treeswinnipeg.org/dutch-elm-disease/)

## Have a tree question? Please contact the Tree Committee!

Ivan Sabesky (Chair): [melivan@mymts.net](mailto:melivan@mymts.net)

Melva Widdicombe: [mlwidd@gmail.com](mailto:mlwidd@gmail.com)

Kayla Maxwell: [kayrmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:kayrmaxwell@gmail.com)

Vivian Sullivan: [vmsullivan@shaw.ca](mailto:vmsullivan@shaw.ca)

Teresa Cavett

Iain Day