

Oak Wilt

Oak wilt disease is caused by a fungus (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) that plugs the water-conducting tubes in a tree, preventing the transportation of water. Individual branches or the entire tree may wilt and die usually from late June through July. Leaves in affected trees turn dull green or bronze starting at the leaf tip.

Trees in the red oak group (black, northern red, northern pin and others with pointed leaf margins) are highly susceptible and usually die in less than one year. Members of the white oak group (white, bur, swamp white and others with rounded leaf margins) die slowly, often taking several years to succumb to the disease.

The disease is spread by insect vectors (small beetles) and root grafts. **Do not injure, prune, or cut oaks during the growing season.** It is during this time that insects can carry the disease to fresh wounds on oaks. Apply tree wound paint to any wounds incurred during this time.

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Additional Resources

Oak Wilt

- UW-Extension Fact Sheet XHT1075, *Oak Wilt*, at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/oak-wilt/>
- UW-Extension Publication G3590, *Oak Wilt Management — What are the Options?*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Oak-Wilt-ManagementWhat-Are-the-Options-P466.aspx>

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