

Invasive Species Alert



Oak Wilt

Help protect the Tree Canopy

Prevention methods are key to managing the spread of Oak Wilt

- **Don't move firewood**
- **Don't prune or cut Oak trees between April and October**
- Learn to spot Oak Wilt symptoms
- Report any symptoms to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

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Photo courtesy of Invasive Species Centre
www.pelham.ca/oakwilt



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About Oak Wilt

Oak wilt is a vascular disease of Oak trees caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. The fungus restricts the flow of water and nutrients through the tree. Some Oak species are more vulnerable than others and can die within a year of infection. Oak Wilt has been present in the United States and has killed thousands of trees, impacting the tree canopy in both urban and rural areas.



Oak Wilt in Canada

Oak Wilt has been found in a residential area in Niagara Falls, Ontario in the spring of 2023, which is the first confirmed detection of Oak Wilt in Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is working to survey the area and determine the next steps. Report any potentially infected trees to OakWiltReportingOntario-Fletrissementduchene@inspection.gc.ca.



Signs and Symptoms of Oak Wilt

Different species of Oak trees show different symptoms, and the life cycle of infection varies. Red Oak are most vulnerable to Oak Wilt and often die within a year of infection. White Oak can survive years after infection, experiencing a slow decline with few symptoms.



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Signs and Symptoms:

1. Discolouration of the leaves, beginning at the leaf edges and travelling toward the stem
2. White, grey, or black fungal growths located under the bark that can have a "fruity" smell
3. Vertical bark cracks in the trunk and branches of trees as a result of fungal spore growths
4. Browning and wilting foliage, starting from the top of the tree and leaves dropping early



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