

B.O.L.O. Be On the Look Ot for Oak Wilt

A new threat to forest and landscape trees in New York State.

The Cornell University Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (CUPDDC) and New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Agriculture & Markets (NYSDAM) are working in collaboration in search of the oak wilt disease.

What is it?

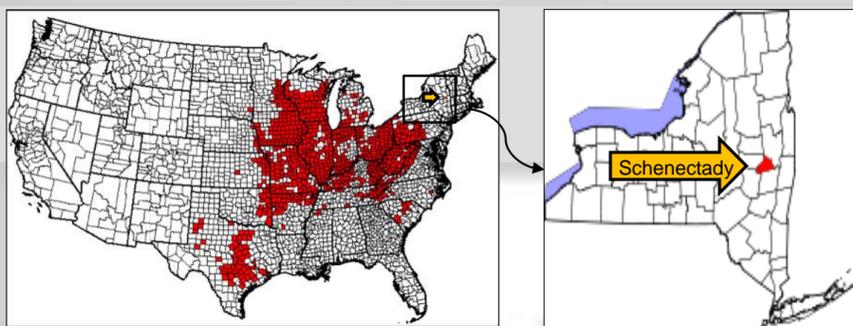
Oak Wilt is a devastating disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus grows in the water-conducting vessels of the tree causing the vessels to plug, which prevents water transport and causes the eventual death of the tree.

Where did it come from?

- First described in the US in Wisconsin, 1944
- Commonly found in the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and in Texas.
- First identified in New York State in 2008 in Schenectady County.

Which tree species are susceptible?

- All species of oak are susceptible to oak wilt to some degree.
- Red oaks (like northern red oak, black oak, pin oak) may die within weeks.
- White oaks are more resistant.



1. Red Oaks typically have pointed lobes.



2. White Oaks typically have rounded lobes.

What are the symptoms and signs of disease?

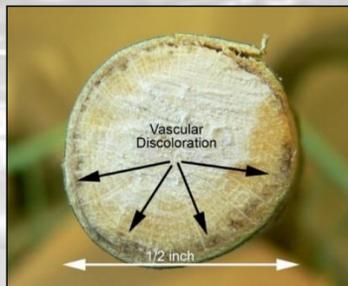
- **Wilting** in June or July – Red oaks in particular may wilt quickly.
- Leaves show **marginal "scorch,"** but this should not be the sole diagnostic criterion since many other problems can cause scorch.
- Sometimes **vascular discoloration** is present in the current season's growth.
- As a diseased tree nears death, a **fungus pad** forms on the inner bark.
- The pads expand and split the bark open, creating a barely noticeable **crack**.
- The pads produce a sweet **odor** reminiscent of rotting fruit.



3. Tree wilting.



4. Leaf displaying "scorch."



5. Vascular discoloration.



6. Fungal pad inside trunk.

What should you do if you suspect a tree is infected?

1. View Dr. George Hudler's video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVUZsvyZfVE>.
2. Contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) office, the CUPDDC, or the NYSDEC directly with a preliminary inquiry.
3. Collect your sample(s) or enlist the aid of a trained arborist to make a collection. For more information including factsheets and submission forms, please see the CUPDDC website.
4. Submit your sample(s) and the completed submission form to your county CCE office or directly to the CUPDDC for processing. Samples must be processed during the active growing period of the tree.

Note: If you suspect a tree on public or other private property has oak wilt, please contact your county CCE office, the CUPDDC, the NYSDEC, or the NYSDAM.

Please do NOT attempt to collect a sample!



7. Fissure outside trunk



8. Example of a sample sent to the PDDC

For information, contact:

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