

Prevent Oak Wilt

**DO NOT PRUNE
OAKS
FEB thru JUNE**

Oak Wilt Carrier Beetle Peak Season



www.nwaca.org/oakwilt
NWACA northwest austin civic association

Prevent Oak Wilt

**PLAN AHEAD
PRUNE NOV thru JAN**

*Beetles Inactive
Dormant Season
Coldest Months*

PREVENT OAK WILT - DO NOT PRUNE OAKS from Feb thru JUN
carrier beetle peak season in central Texas

In order to prevent Oak Wilt, it is essential that pruners comply with the Oak Wilt Prevention "Best Practices" including sterilizing equipment, immediately painting all cuts and not pruning during the carrier beetle peak season from February through June. See www.nwaca.org/oakwilt

PLAN AHEAD – Prune NOV thru JAN
carrier beetles are inactive and dormant growth season

The solution is to properly prune Oaks during a safe season when carrier beetles are inactive such as November through January and use "Best Practices". The best months for pruning Oaks are the coldest months (November through January) when growth is dormant and the carrier beetles are inactive. The hot summer months are also safe, but the trees are still growing and may develop unwanted sucker growth.

Healthy Oak trees require only infrequent pruning every 5-10 years. Obviously pruning should target dead limbs, limbs growing into buildings or utility lines, self-inflicted wounds (limbs rubbing together) and poor structural pattern growth. However, cosmetic pruning to strip small limbs from major branches is normally unnecessary. Trees need internal limbs on major branches to insure proper growth and taper of the branch that helps the branch to withstand the whipping action from winds during storms. Never remove more than 25% of the canopy.

NWACA strongly recommends that you employ only certified arborists to prune your valuable Oaks. Avoid the uncertified tree service vendors who roam the neighborhoods and perform unsafe Oak Wilt practices. Find local certified arborists and check Better Business Bureau:

Find certified arborist by location/ZIP www.isa-arbor.com/faca/findarborist.aspx
Check BBB rating by vendor name www.BBB.org

Please distribute and discuss this Oak Wilt Alert with our neighbors. It is extremely important to help educate new neighbors who may not know about Oak Wilt. Fortunately, Oak Wilt is being suppressed in NWACA. Unfortunately, outbreaks continue to happen annually. Note that over \$500,000 has already been spent on previous NWACA trenching projects. We must work vigilantly to protect our treasured Oaks.

Oak pruning and Oak Wilt information links (1/18/2011):

Prevent Oak Wilt Best Practices, links, contacts
All your Oak Wilt questions
Austin Oak Wilt Suppression Program
General references on trees
Tree diseases

www.nwaca.org/oakwilt
www.texasoakwilt.org/
www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt
www.treesaregood.com/

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1173>