OAK WILT PROTOCOL
used by
MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY

This treatment was initially developed on some sites in and around Mosinee, WI by Tom Meier (retired DNR, Mead WLA), along with some studies done in Minnesota with chemical control.

Identified tree with oak wilt during summer "flagging season". Referred to as Infected Tree (IT). Diameter of IT tree(s) recorded and we mark in any paint color and also heavily stump mark for long-term reference.

All surrounding oaks within root grafting distances using Johann Bruhn's model are identified (See Oak Wilt Guideline pamphlet). We use the sand distance in the model to be aggressive and ensure we control the spread. **(NOTE!!!! For Double/Triple trees, combine the diameters together (ie a 14" and 16" should be a 30", and not as individual trees to determine the distance).** All trees identified referred to as Treatment Trees (TT). All TT are marked and stump marked in a Different Color to distinguish the difference between IT and TT for future monitoring.

1) Cut and remove dead -Infected Trees (IT) during fall/winter of year Oak wilt killed. If can't be removed from the site, cut down and get all the bark off down to 4", to not allow fungal mats to form.
2) Treat next ring of trees-Treatment Trees (TT) the **following** Summer. ******
3) Treatment of TT takes place **AFTER** sap running, **typically late June to early July**
4) On Each TT, do the following
   - Each tree will get double girdled (chainsaw) and make sure to get through the cambium, within 1-2' of root collar (if possible), just try to keep as low as possible. Large Double/Triple trees are difficult with this. In these scenarios, we girdle around the base of the double/triple tree, then EACH tree gets double girdled.
   - Spray with following mixture- 1:3 ratio of a **Triclopyr** based chemical (Garlon 4, Tahoe 4, Element 4, etc) to Diesel Fuel. Mix in backpack sprayer, hand sprayer or squirt bottle based on amount needed. One site in summer of 2012, we treated 11 trees, (ave. DBH 12.6") We used 40 oz of Element 4 and 120 oz of Diesel. Site in 2011, treated 71 trees (ave. DBH 13.0") and needed just over 6 total gallons of mixture.
   - Spray girdles and ensure sawdust chips are out of girdles. Saturate all bark below the girdles, including root flares. Can spray above the girdles too.
5) TT should die within 2 weeks. Harvest these trees in the fall (later the better to let the chemical do its work). If harvesting-removal of trees not an option due to small number of trees, location, etc., then cut the trees down and utilize for firewood, or let stand for snag trees for wildlife.

This method has been 100% effective on all our sites. We have had no expansion of the pockets. Our 1st treatments took place in 2003.

****** In 2012, we have tried on 2 sites, treatment of TT the same summer we found the IT. So, we found 2 oak wilt pockets (individual trees really) in mid-late June. We then treated the TT that early July, instead of waiting till next summer to treat them. We feel this accomplishes the same thing, just saving a year in the process.

Any questions, please call Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry. 715-261-1550

July 27, 2012