

DED Survey Summary for the Town of Outlook, Saskatchewan

On July 18 to 20th and August 25th, 2023, Living Tree Environmental Limited (Living Tree) completed a comprehensive Dutch elm disease (DED) survey for the Town of Outlook. This survey included a full inspection of all American elm trees within the municipal boundaries of the community for symptoms of DED and the detection of all elm wood/pruning violations (**In contravention of the Provincial Dutch elm disease Regulations (2005)**) located on all public and private properties in your community. The survey was completed by vehicle and on foot using a 2-person survey crew. All data was logged using a Garmin 66i GPS unit and navigated using Avenza Maps Pro applications on a handheld tablet. All Living Tree DED survey crews are led by personnel that have at least 2 years of DED/forest health survey experience along with either undergraduate diplomas or degrees in forestry or natural resource management.

During the survey, 2 violations under the *Saskatchewan Dutch elm disease regulations (2005)* were identified (See Table 1 below). Also during the survey, the crew noted some recent storm damage identified in the community (ex. Small broken branches within the tree canopy). Broken branches should be pruned and removed by a well-trained arborist in the fall/winter (i.e. Elms must be pruned outside the annual elm pruning ban period of April 1 to August 31). All branches should be disposed of and enforced within 2 to 3 weeks of this report being submitted.



Figure 1. American elm DED “hazard” tree violations identified in Southern SK in 2023.



Figure 2. Typical staining of vascular tissue identified in DED infected trees.

Table 1. 2023 DED Regulation Violations

Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public/Private	Type of Violation	Direct Contact with Landowner (Y/N)	Notes/Comments
CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL

During the annual survey in Outlook, 30 hazard elm trees/DED symptomatic American elms were identified and marked for removal by the survey crew. All trees were marked for removal with an orange tree paint ring. It is recommended that all trees marked for removal should be removed and disposed of within 2 to 3 weeks of the survey or after receiving laboratory results.

Table 2. 2023 DED Infected or Danger Trees Marked for removal.

Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public or Private Tree	Branch Sample Submitted (Y/N)	Additional Notes
CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL

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Figure 3. Typical growth form of a healthy American elm tree in the urban forest

Although the annual DED survey has been completed for the Town of Outlook, the community must stay vigilant against the threat of DED that may affect the remaining healthy American elm trees in the urban forest. This includes maintaining a public awareness campaign for DED, identification, and enforcement of elm wood violations when they arise and watching for DED wilt symptoms in the elm trees. The annual survey Living Tree completes offers a snapshot of your urban forest for that day. To continue to reduce the risk of DED infection and spread in your municipality, Living Tree recommends the following steps be incorporated into the urban forest management plan:

- a. Continue to complete at least 1 uninterrupted, comprehensive DED survey each summer (Between July 1 and August 25). This survey must be completed by an experienced and well-trained survey crew. Communities with either annual infections or are located within the DED "hot zone" in Saskatchewan typically get 2 surveys completed.



- b. Conduct rapid enforcement/removal/disposal of all hazard elms/DED infected elms and elm wood violations (ex. This should be completed within 2 weeks of the survey)
- c. Maintain a public awareness/education program to increase public engagement for your urban forest.
- d. Consider completing a tree inventory of your public trees. This will provide your local government with valuable information about the species composition within your urban forest, will include an overall health assessment of your trees and can even estimate the approximate dollar value of the publicly owned urban forest.
- e. Incorporate a pruning schedule for your urban forest. This may be 3-to-5 or 5-to-7-year pruning cycles. For example, hiring an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to remove the dead and dying branches will improve the overall health and vigour of your trees and make them less susceptible to insect and disease infestation and infection.

This season has seen lower than normal precipitation amounts within your community. However, the overall condition of the American elm trees is still fair to good. If the drought-like conditions persist for the remainder of the summer, the overall health of the urban forest could decline. Therefore, when possible, provide your trees infrequent, but deep waterings to promote deep root establishment. This will assist in the reduction of stress on your trees.

Once again, Living Tree is very grateful for the opportunity to complete this valuable urban forest health survey for the Town of Outlook this season and we look forward to assisting your community with any future urban forest health projects that may be required.

Sincerely,

The Living Tree Environmental Team