

DUTCH ELM DISEASE

ELM FIREWOOD - STORAGE PROHIBITED

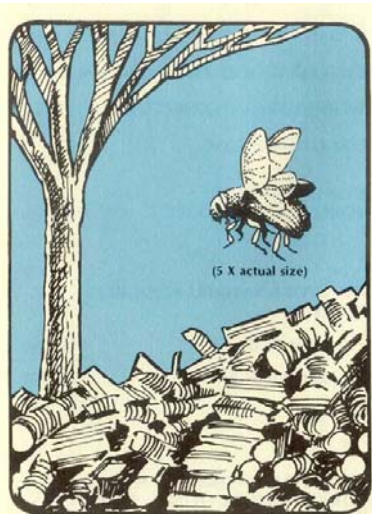
The storage of elm wood in Manitoba is prohibited by the Dutch Elm Disease Act. All stored Elmwood must be disposed of in an appropriate manner as soon as possible. The following information explains the problem and provides the necessary information to deal with any wood. If you are unable to identify the type of wood you have or if you wish more information call the number listed below.

People with fireplaces and wood burning stoves tend to keep a well stocked wood pile year-round. Prior to 1975, this was a harmless practice; any type of wood could be cut and stored. However, with the invasion of Dutch Elm Disease into Manitoba, the situation has changed. Elm firewood contributes to the persistence of Dutch Elm Disease within an area. Also, new infections will occur if diseased logs are transported into a non-diseased region.



TRANSMISSION

Dutch Elm Disease is a fungus that grows in the inner bark of elm wood, rapidly killing the tree. The native elm bark beetle breeds in elms that are dying or have recently died. The adult females form their egg galleries in the inner bark of the elm. The fungus can be transmitted to uninfected logs by spores carried on adult beetles breeding under the bark. When breeding occurs in an infected log or tree, the young will emerge contaminated with spores. These young beetles fly to living elms to feed, initiating new infections. Similarly, overwintering, contaminated adults will emerge in the spring to feed causing early season infections.



Beetles emerge from infected firewood to feed on living elm trees, initiating new infections. These trees die rapidly and if stored as firewood, will invite elm bark beetle adults to breed. More contaminated beetles will be produced to infect and kill more elm trees. This cycle encourages the spread of Dutch Elm Disease and its persistence within an area.

SANITATION

To reduce beetle breeding areas, all dead elm branches, logs or trees should be promptly removed to a designated disposal site for burning or burial. Healthy elm trees should not be pruned between April 1 and August 1. Elm Bark beetles are strongly attracted to the open tree wounds. Trimming your elm is best left to the fall or winter.

RESTRICTIONS

The use of elm as firewood is restricted. Storage and transportation of elm throughout Manitoba is regulated by legislation. In a controlled area, a permit must be obtained before storing or transporting elm. Storage of elm wood requires either the complete removal of the bark or the wood be kiln-dried or treated according to the standards approved by the Department of Natural Resources. **PROTECT YOUR ELM — DO NOT STORE OR TRANSPORT ELM FIREWOOD.**

IDENTIFYING ELM WOOD



TREE FORM—The American elm is a tall, hardwood tree with an umbrella-like shape. It is the most common elm species in Manitoba.



BARK SURFACE—The bark surface is generally dark grey to grey brown in colour. The outer bark is composed of broad, intersecting ridges and has a rough flaky appearance.



BARK CROSS-SECTION—There is alternate brown and beige layers in the cross-section of the bark. This feature is distinctive only to elms.



BETLE GALLERY—A beetle gallery is composed of a wide adult tunnel, across the grain of the wood, and many perpendicular larval tunnels. The average length of the adult gallery is 30mm while a larvae gallery may reach 40mm.