



News Release

from the Texas Forest Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prevent the spread of deadly disease, select dry firewood

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Now that cooler weather is here, the Texas Forest Service is encouraging Texans to be careful when collecting or buying firewood in order to prevent spreading the deadly oak wilt disease.

Though not harmful to people, oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States. The disease has killed more than one million trees in Central Texas in both urban and rural areas.

Beetles and connected root systems spread oak wilt from tree to tree, but people can unknowingly carry contaminated wood into healthy stands of oak and spread the disease into new areas. Prevent oak wilt from spreading into uninfected areas by selecting well-seasoned firewood. Well-seasoned wood is cut before the summer, dry and often has loose bark and cracked ends.

Avoid oak wood that has tight bark and freshly cut ends that show no cracks or signs of aging. The extreme heat and drying of a full Texas summer effectively destroys the oak wilt fungus in cut firewood.

For pictures, more information and treatment options, click on the Forest Management link at texasforests.tamu.edu or call the automated Texas Forest Service–Lower Colorado River Authority Oak Wilt Hotline at 512-473-3517.

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