

SAVING DISEASED ELMS

A PROCESS FOR SAVING ELMS INFECTED BY DUTCH ELM DISEASE

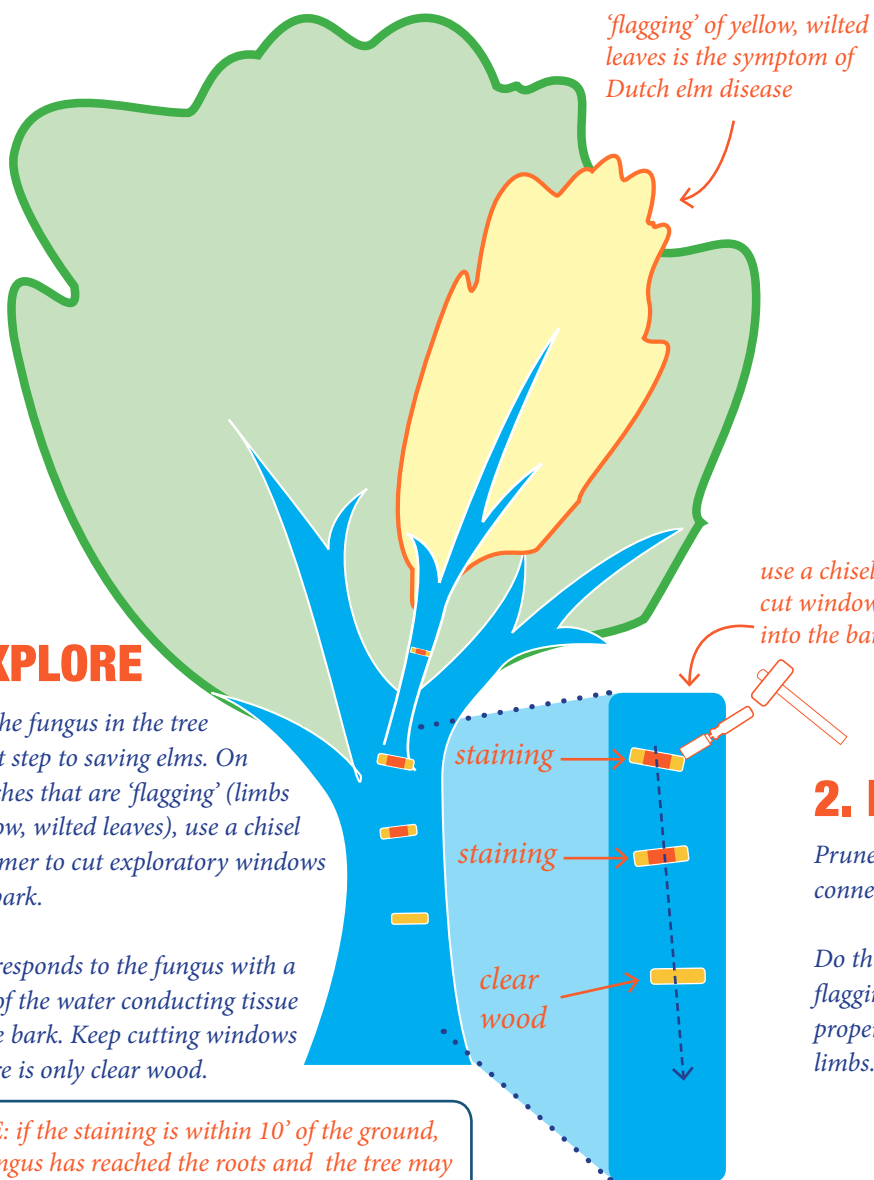
Protecting elm trees from Dutch elm disease most effective when treated preventively. In some cases, infected elms can be saved but the fungus needs to be completely removed from the tree. This process has been effective for nearly thirty years but the health of the tree, the progression of the disease, and the aesthetics of the remaining tree must be considered before starting this process.

1. EXPLORE

Finding the fungus in the tree is the first step to saving elms. On the branches that are 'flagging' (limbs with yellow, wilted leaves), use a chisel and hammer to cut exploratory windows into the bark.

The tree responds to the fungus with a staining of the water conducting tissue under the bark. Keep cutting windows until there is only clear wood.

NOTE: if the staining is within 10' of the ground, the fungus has reached the roots and the tree may not be saved with this process.

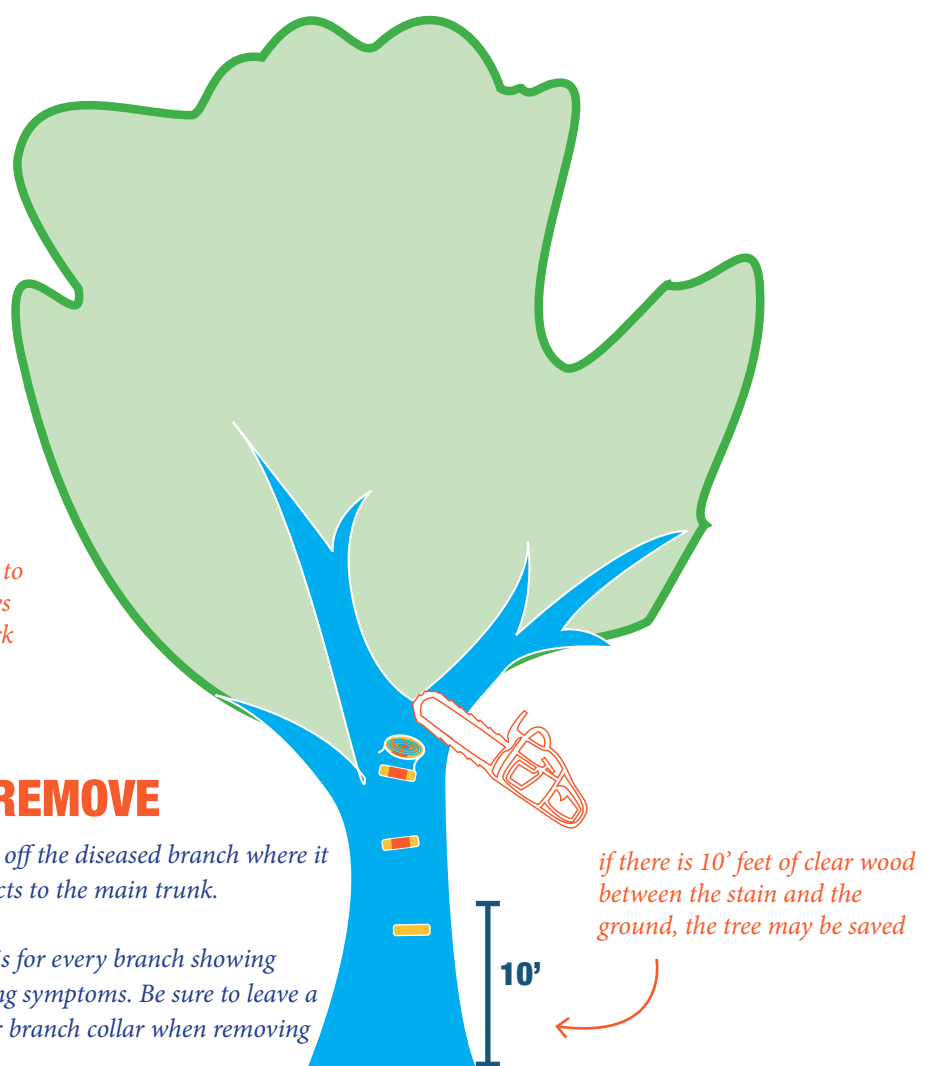


2. REMOVE

Prune off the diseased branch where it connects to the main trunk.

Do this for every branch showing flagging symptoms. Be sure to leave a proper branch collar when removing limbs.

if there is 10' feet of clear wood between the stain and the ground, the tree may be saved

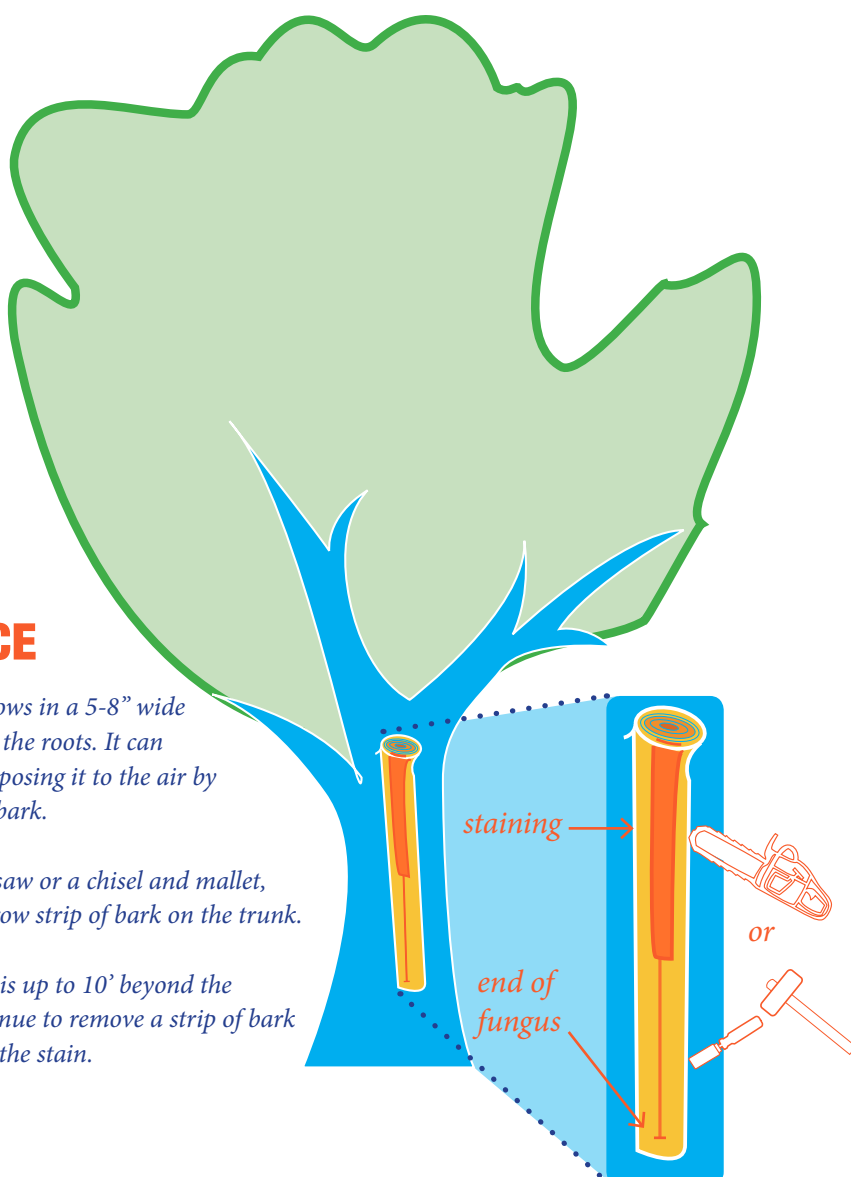


3. TRACE

The fungus grows in a 5-8" wide band down to the roots. It can be killed by exposing it to the air by removing the bark.

Using a chainsaw or a chisel and mallet, remove a narrow strip of bark on the trunk.

As the fungus is up to 10' beyond the staining, continue to remove a strip of bark up to 10' past the stain.



4. PROTECT

Tracing only removes the fungus growing in the tree. It will not defend the remaining tree from getting Dutch elm disease again.

Protecting the remaining tree with Arbotect™ (thiabendazole) is an important step in protecting this tree from future infections. Arbotect™ will protect the tree for up to 3 seasons.

do not apply anything to the exposed wood (paint, hardeners, shellack, etc). The tree will callus around the wound on its own.

Arbotect is applied by macro-infusion

Alamo™ (propiconazole) may be used the year this process is preformed, followed by an Arbotect™ treatment the following year.