



Watch Out for Oak Wilt!

Spring is the time of year when oaks are most susceptible to oak wilt, a deadly fungal disease that infects and disables the water-conducting system in oak trees. All oaks are susceptible, but some species are more so than others.

With no known cure, methods to control and treatments are expensive and not guaranteed. Here are some tips from our City Arborist for keeping oak wilt at bay.

- Minimize pruning oak trees between February 1 and July 1. This is when the oak wilt fungus is most active.
- The best time to prune oak trees is either in the middle of the summer, when temperatures are the hottest, or in the late fall/early winter months when temperatures can be the coldest.
- Paint all cuts and wounds on oak trees within 30 minutes.
- Remove red oaks identified with oak wilt.
- Know where your firewood comes from. Don't transport unseasoned firewood from diseased red oaks.
- Make sure contractors doing tree pruning have a valid, city-issued tree maintenance license and proper training.

For more information on oak wilt, go to <https://www.sanantonio.gov> and search under "tree preservation." Or contact the Texas A&M Forest Service at (210) 494-1742 if you have questions or suspect that oak wilt is in your neighborhood.