

TREE DISEASE COSTLY TO STATE

Elm Bark Beetle Threat Unchecked

Science in recent years has found ways to control — if not eradicate — virtually every pest or disease that has threatened America's agricultural economy. But one tiny migrant from Europe, the elm bark beetle, has spread the disease almost unchecked through America's shade trees while scientists search frantically for a foolproof, economical way to stop it. Dutch elm disease costs Michigan residents \$30 million each year in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula, according to a Michigan State University plant pathologist. The \$30 million figure is an estimate of the value of beauty and shade lost to the tree disease and doesn't include another \$25 million spent annually by local governments, industries, and citizens for control measures.

According to John H. Hart, MSU Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, the Dutch elm disease was first found in Michigan in 1920, and since that time it has spread to 56 of Michigan's 83 counties. Within a few years this tree killer is expected to be present throughout the entire state.

All efforts to solve the Dutch elm disease problem are going to be expensive, says Hart.

First, the law requires that diseased trees be removed and burned — a costly operation. Second, removed trees must be replaced if shade is desired, and it takes many years before new trees give suitable shade.

Hart advises Michigan property owners interested in growing elm trees to know the cause of the disease, how to recognize it, and what to do about it.

Dutch elm disease is caused by a fungus called Ceratocystis ulmi, which grows in the water-conducting tissues of the tree. As it grows, the tree forms gums which plug the conducting tissues and cause the tree to wilt and die.

Many trees die the same season that infection occurs. Few trees live longer than the second or third season.

Adult bark beetles are the culprits responsible for spreading the disease from tree to tree. When the beetles leave the diseased elm trees the fungus spores cling to their bodies. The spores then enter healthy trees through the puncture-like wounds made by the bark beetle during feeding.

The two bark beetles which are the major carriers of the disease are the smaller European elm bark beetle and the native elm bark beetle. The European beetle entered the U.S. in 1909, and it is now the most important disease carrier.

Another way in which the disease spreads from diseased to healthy trees is through natural root grafts. Spacing between trees determines this — elm 30 feet apart are seldom connected by a graft. Trees 20 feet apart are frequently connected.

Plant pathologists using laboratory methods are the only people who can detect the disease with certainty. However, Hart gives a few tips to the layman which, in most cases, indicate the presence of the fungus.

The most noticeable sign is the wilting of one or more branches of infected trees. Another is the presence of branches with dead, brown leaves hanging among the green foliage of healthy branches.

Infection usually occurs one branch at a time when bark beetles are the fungus carriers.

A second check is to examine the crotches of one- and two-year-old twigs for the oral, depressed feeding punctures of the bark beetles.

Cross sections of branches provide a third indication of infection. Branch pieces from diseased trees will have a characteristic discoloration. In cross section the discoloration will appear as a ring of brown dots located in the wood just beneath the bark.

In spite of these three simple checks, Hart reminds those people that professional laboratory methods are the only sure means of detecting the disease.

"The only known means of control is to prevent the fungus from moving through root grafts and to keep the bark beetles from carrying the fungus from diseased to healthy trees," says Hart.

He lists three important control factors: sanitation, destruction of root grafts, and chemical control with insecticides.

Sanitation means pruning out the old and dying branches. In addition it means removing dead elm trees and all those which are low in vigor. Sanitation also includes the destruction of beetle breeding places.

Destruction of root grafts is best accomplished with a sharp, a soil sterilizer, advises Hart. This chemical has been found to kill elm roots within a limited area.

Chemical control involves spraying healthy trees with an insecticide that will kill the bark beetles before they can spread the infection. Thorough treatment is necessary.

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Evergreens Grow All Year in Window Box

This fall, plant a forest in your window box. While most people clean out their window boxes of summer annuals each fall, they leave the boxes empty all winter long.

But if you put up evergreen seedlings for your winter window box they'll provide a soft and interesting focal point all through the bleaker months.

Seedlings of fir, pine, spruce or other evergreens are available through the mail or at nurseries for very little money. Most are six to 12 inches tall. The average window box will hold about nine of these seedlings. Each little tree should be potted up, just as you would any house plant, in a five- or six-inch red clay pot depending upon the size of the evergreen.

Water well with a weak solution of evergreen food. You won't have to worry about over-watering because the porous walls of the clay pot will leach out the excess.

Between the clay pots in the window box, stick red moss to act as insulation. This will also serve to cut down on the number of times you'll have to water.

At Christmas you can add additional interest by decorating your little trees with small outdoor lights.

When spring rolls around, your evergreens may be plunged in their pots in those bare spots in your garden, or transplanted to a permanent location.

American Style Tops Furniture

American style is being featured in just one out of three dining room and bedroom suites shown by furniture dealers this year. Walnut veneers and solids are used in nearly one-fourth of all bedroom and dining room groupings.

These conclusions are based on a survey of new and continuing lines shown to dealers at the winter home furnishings market in Chicago. Similar authoritative surveys have been made semi-annually for 21 years by the American Walnut Manufacturers' Association.

Early American, American Colonial and Federal grouped as one category, supplanted Contemporary-Modern as the style leader at this Chicago market. The latter group, 22.5 percent of the groupings shown, a gain of 5.1 per cent over their representation six months previous.

Contemporary-Modern meanwhile lost 5.5 per cent from last summer's showing, being identified in only 31.9 per cent of the suites.

Contemporary-Modern led at both semi-annual markets in 1964, after trailing American styles in 1963.

Furniture of Italian and Spanish influence solidified its hold on third place by gaining almost 4 percentage points and being identified in 24.2 per cent of the 1965 groupings. Lagging far behind, French and English held fourth and fifth positions.

The survey teams found that 22.7 per cent of all bedroom and dining room suites displayed were of walnut. This was a slight drop of 3 per cent from last summer, but still nearly 9 per cent ahead of cherry, the next most popular wood. Maple was just a shade behind cherry.

Experiment Doubles Number of Blooms

Nearly twice as many rose blooms every month from May through November were obtained in an experimental planting in Texas treated three times each with fertilizer, mulch and fungicide, plus a root-starter solution at the time of planting.

The number of blooms totaled 235 for the season, compared to 130 for untreated plots.

American Association of Nurserymen, states similar ratios probably hold true for many plants.

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A MODEL OF Livonia's proposed new south end library is held by Librarian Skip Rosenthal (left) and Joseph Jenkins, chairman of the Library Commission (right) at last Wednesday's meeting of the City Council. The two met with Councilmen to discuss the bid for construction of the library, which will be erected on the south side of Plymouth Rd. at Loveland.

Stevenson High Architect Summoned to Netherlands

Architect Charles W. Lane, whose Adlai E. Stevenson High School Vice-President Humphrey dedicated in Livonia last Friday, flew off to Holland after the ceremony to serve as American architect consultant at the International Schools of the Hague.

On his initial trip to The Netherlands, Lane will spend two weeks consulting with International School heads and planners to gather background information, and to establish relationships for further architectural action.

The Anna Arbor architect was selected on this government request project in the spirit of an agreement with the United States Department of State which specifies that "this be a demonstration center for educational methods and practices employed in the United States."

At the present time the International Schools of the Hague are conducting kindergarten through the 12th grade classes for sons and daughters of embassy and consular employees, of technicians employed by U.S. firms, and other permanent or temporary overlanders resident in this cosmopolitan area of Holland. The school is accredited to prepare students for American, European and American universities.

In the simplest form of Oriental arrangement, a twig on the left—beneath sideways—represents "Man," and the lowest branch on the right denotes "Earth."

More than one type of flower or branch may be used in a single arrangement by simply placing each of the separate pieces to symbolize either "Heaven," "Man," or "Earth."

For example, a bamboo may symbolize "Heaven" with a pine branch as "Man" and short-stemmed flowers to signify "Earth." The relative height and shape of vases and flowers are important essentials of this art; each should mutually complement the arrangement.

There's An Art To Flower Arrangement

Although methods vary, the basic principles in the classic Oriental art of Flower Arranging are the same in that each arrangement must be designed to symbolize "Heaven," "Man," and "Earth."

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Pot Mums Now for House Plants

If your garden looks scraggly and spotty in the fall, you can make a good investment by depositing some mums in a "plant bank."

By picking up a few clay potted mums now, you can enjoy them as house plants while their bloom lasts this fall.

When the mums have gone out of bloom, plunge them, pot and all, in a little-used part of your garden, covering lightly with a mulch of leaves.

With a little care, they will grow and thrive and provide colorful dividends for bare spots in the garden next fall.

Fire kills about 11,500 persons yearly in the United States. Nearly 30 per cent of the victims are children.

Gets Navy Promotion

Russell W. Brooks, formerly of 23030 Colgate, Farmington—where his mother still lives—has just been promoted to First Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy. He and his family are now living in Philadelphia.

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