

Appendix F

LCRA TSC's Oak Wilt Policy

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LCRA EMPLOYEE POLICY MANUAL: 400 SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL

Requirement 402R2: Oak Wilt Prevention

Approval Date	October 2014	Owner	Manager, Environmental Affairs
Effective Date	October 2014	Policy Owner Review	Every Three Years
Review Date	October 2014	Next Executive Team or Designee Review	2016

402R2.1 Oak Wilt Defined

Oak wilt is a tree disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus infects the conductive tissue (xylem) that contains vessels to transport moisture throughout the tree. The oak wilt fungus causes the infected tree to produce tylosis, which becomes so significant the tree can no longer transport water through its vascular system. The end result, in most cases, is a dead tree.

402R2.2 Prevention of Oak Wilt

- Any person representing LCRA involved in field work where oak trees are trimmed, removed, or could be potentially wounded shall receive oak wilt training. LCRA representatives required to have training include, but are not limited to, project managers, construction managers, environmental staff, equipment operators, contractors, subcontractors, and volunteers. Training must occur before field work may begin in areas with oak trees. Those working with oak trees shall complete the LCRA Oak Wilt Prevention Report as well. When possible, oak trees should not be trimmed or pruned between February and June.
- At all times, sterilizing equipment and dressing wounds are mandatory when trimming or pruning susceptible species.
- Sterilizing tree removal and trimming equipment will occur before leaving the project area or between property boundaries, and will involve using either 1) aerosol disinfectant; 2) 10 percent bleach-water solution; or 3) isopropyl alcohol (minimum 70 percent). In addition, tree-trimming equipment must be sterilized thoroughly before it is used again.
- Irrespective of limb size, all cuts and wounds must be painted with a wound or latex-based paint, a product approved by a certified arborist who has obtained an Oak Wilt Specialist Certification, or one recommended by the Texas Forest Service. Such painting will include stump cuts and damaged roots (regardless if the stumps are to remain in place or are to be grubbed), both above and below ground. Damaged roots located in a trench or excavations that a safety supervisor says cannot be accessed safely do not have to be painted. It takes only a few minutes for an open tree wound to attract insects, so painting cannot wait until all pruning is accomplished. Wound protection must be applied immediately. At a minimum, LCRA representatives will seal all wounds of any size on all oak trees. However, LCRA representatives may elect to seal cuts of other hardwood trees on a case-by-case basis.

402R2.3 Disposal

- Chipping or shredding the wood from infected trees to use as mulch is an acceptable means of recycling it. Chipping or shredding dries the wood quickly and kills the fungus.
- Burning diseased wood is an acceptable means of disposal. Burning diseased logs kills the oak wilt fungus, and it cannot be spread by smoke.
- Firewood from diseased trees should not be stored near healthy trees because fungal spores or insects that carry the spores can spread the fungus. If the brush or logs are to be left for firewood, the LCRA representative must explain to the landowner or landowner's representative that the brush or logs may be infected and warn them of storage hazards.
- LCRA representatives may fulfill this landowner notification obligation by providing pertinent information regarding burning and firewood to the landowner or landowner's representative. Logs over 4 inches, or 10

centimeters, in diameter at breast height must be girdled (have the bark removed), as fungal mats have been found on logs this size and larger after the tree was felled.

- It is recommended that oak firewood be stored under a sheet of clear plastic, and edges tightly sealed with soil or bricks. That should prevent any spore-carrying beetles from escaping. Use clear plastic because black plastic will reveal any escape holes to the beetles.
- Unused disinfectants and paints must be recycled or disposed of properly.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are required for each paint and disinfectant used.

See Also:

[LCRA Oak Wilt Prevention Report](#)

LCRA Oak Wilt Prevention Report

Oak wilt is a tree disease caused by a fungus which in most cases kills the tree. To help prevent the spread of oak wilt LCRA's Oak Wilt Policy states that **all wounds made to oak trees must be painted as soon as the wound is created** with a wound or latex-based paint or a product approved by a Certified Arborist who has obtained an Oak Wilt Specialist Certification or as directed by the Texas Forest Service. Sterilization of tree removal and trimming equipment must occur before leaving the project area or between property boundaries and must involve using an aerosol disinfectant, ten (10) percent bleach-water solution, or isopropyl alcohol (minimum 70%). **Tools must be disinfected between trees if pruning adjacent to oak wilt infested areas.** In addition, trimming equipment must be sterilized thoroughly before it is used again. If mechanical clearing occurs using a device such as a flail mower, one must ensure that stumps are painted.

Please fill out the following report to ensure compliance with LCRA's Oak Wilt policy.

Date	Project Location <small>(e.g. TL #, Substation, Park, etc.)</small>	County	Land Parcel # <small>(if known)</small>	Structures <small>(if applicable)</small>	Type of Paint used <small>(attach MSDS)</small>	Color of Paint*	# of Oak Trees Painted	Type of Disinfectant Used <small>(circle one)</small>
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol
								Aerosol / Bleach / Alcohol

**It is highly recommended that a dark-colored paint (black or brown) be used. Marking and other types of paints that fade easily are not recommended.*

Workers Name (printed): _____ Company: _____

Workers Signature: _____ Date: _____

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