



## **Disposal and Storage of Wood from Diseased Elms and Red/Pin oaks**

**City ordinance prohibits the movement of infected wood off site without first ensuring that proper care is taken for disposal.**

**Elm:** After diseased elms are removed, bark intact elm wood, over 3" in diameter must be chipped, debarked, burned (obtain burning permit) or buried to prevent spread of the fungus by elm bark beetles. Stump should be cut to within 6 inches of the ground. Covering wood or storing in a garage does not keep elm bark beetles out. No elm wood with the bark intact may be stored between April 1<sup>st</sup> and Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Red or Pin Oak:** If infected trees are left standing or bark-intact wood is not disposed of or covered, the oak wilt fungus can produce spore mats on the wood under the bark of recently wilted red and pin oaks. Insects attracted to the mats in the spring then spread the fungus to fresh wounds on healthy oaks. Infected should be chipped, de-barked, burned (obtain burning permit) buried or stored for firewood (if covered properly). Wood chips from the wood may be used as landscape mulch or on trails, once they have been allowed to dry. Buried wood must be covered completely with the ends exposed. Infected wood may also be de-barked, dried and processed as lumber. For any of these methods, it is important that all steps be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following symptoms. The City of Mahtomedi requires removal of the marked trees by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following wilting and the infected wood should be processed before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Infected wood may be retained for use as firewood only if properly covered and dried.

### **Covering Wood of Recently Wilted Red or Pin Oak for firewood.**

1. Cut felled tree into firewood lengths
2. Stack or pile infected wood 4" in diameter and greater. The size of the pile does not matter but it should be stable enough not to collapse. Trim off branches that may stick through the plastic and create holes.
3. Dig a 4" deep trench completely around the woodpile. If ground is frozen, the plastic should be in contact with the soil and weighed down completely on all edges until trench can be dug when the ground thaws.
4. Cover wood with heavy (4 mil or thicker) plastic sheeting (black is best) and lay the edge of the plastic in the trench.
5. Fill the trench with dirt and completely seal the woodpile.
6. Keep sealed until after September 1<sup>st</sup>, then uncover to let dry further.

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Please contact Mahtomedi Forestry Consultant, Steve Schumacher @651-747-3736 with any questions or for more information