

Understanding Dutch Elm Disease (DED)

DED was introduced to North America in 1930 and the first diseased elm trees were found in Fredericton in 1961. DED is an introduced disease caused by a fungus that kills White (or American) elm trees.

The fungus is mainly spread from elm to elm by native and European elm bark beetles when they feed in the canopy of elms and overwinter under the bark at the base of the trees.

The bark beetles breed in dead and dying elm material including elms infected with DED. For this reason, much of DED management had previously focused on the removal and sanitation of this material.

The City of Fredericton Parks & Trees arboriculture team is responsible for the identification and treatment of American elm trees on City property within the Dutch Elm Disease Management Area (DEDMA). The goal is to stop the spread of the disease.

Fredericton City Council approved the DEDMA as the Downtown Core and Devon. These areas are where elms were planted as street trees and have historical significance to the tree canopy of the city. Privately owned trees are the responsibility of the homeowner, including the tree's removal and all associated costs.