Clear Downed Elm Wood Fast To Halt Dutch Elm Disease

Quick cleanup of branches broken off trees by windstorms, or felled through other means, was urged recently by Iowa State University entomologist, Harold Gunderson.

If downed elm wood isn’t cleaned up by the middle of August, Gunderson said, the bark beetles that spread Dutch elm disease will begin laying eggs in the debris. Result will be an increased beetle population for 1963, and more chances for widespread Dutch elm damage.

Gunderson said it is important also that people recognize that no spraying treatment gives 100% protection. On trees 60 to 110 feet tall, for example, it’s quite possible that at least one crotch won’t receive enough insecticide to protect against bark beetle feeding in the spring. And one feeding beetle can infect a healthy tree.

Gunderson said spraying elms under ideal conditions during the dormant season, with a proper mixture of DDT, will give 95-99% protection. Methoxychlor used under similar conditions will give 93-96% protection.

Where elms grow very close together, Gunderson explained, it’s possible for Dutch elm disease to be transmitted through root grafts. When this happens, spraying offers no protection whatever.

Trees infected with Dutch elm disease show in the early stages a yellowing and wilting of leaves on water sprouts along the trunk or on one or more branches at the treetops. Elm leaf beetle larvae feed on the underside of leaves, causing a skeletonizing effect.

Another control recommendation for combating the ailment comes from David Matthew, Purdue University extension entomologist. He says severe infestations may be controlled by spraying the trees with DDT at ¼ pint 25% emulsifiable concentrate or ¼ pound 50% DDT wettable powder per 25 gallons. Lead arsenate may be used at 1 pound, plus ⅛ pint of summer oil, per 25 gallons.

Sol-Kraft Grows, Relocates

Sol-Kraft, Inc., American distributor of West German Solo small engine equipment, is moving into new and larger quarters at 37-41 57th St., Woodside 77, N.Y. New facilities will feature offices, an enlarged stock room, and increased warehouse facilities.

Literature you’ll want...

Here are the latest government, university and industrial publications of interest to contract applicators. Books are nominally priced. When ordering, include title and catalog number, if any. Sources follow booklet titles.

The Biology and Control of Turf Grubs, Research Bulletin No. 829, 1959, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, 15p.


Chlorobenzilate to Control Mites on Ornamentals, Technical Bulletin No. 62-1, Sp. ii., Geigy Agricultural Chemicals, P.O. Box 430, Yonkers, N.Y.

Diseases and Other Disorders of Turf, Circular 298 (Revised), April 1962, 11 p. ill., Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven.


Fall Renovation of Greens and Fairways, Product Use Bulletin No. 3 (Revised), August 1960, 48 p. ill., West Point Products Co., West Point, Pa.


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