



-General distribution of oak wilt.

OAK WILT

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus *Chalara quercina* Henry, effects all of the important native species of oak in the midwest.

Symptoms. Oak wilt usually appears first on branches in the upper portion of the crown. Wilt of leaves progresses downward and inward until all of the foliage is effected. These symptoms are followed by yellowing, browning or bronzing of the leaf tissues which spread from the margins toward the midrib. Affected red and black oaks may wilt and die in four to six weeks or, at least during a single growing season. It has been reported that bur and white oaks usually die slowly over a period of years. However, during 1948 and 1949, bur oaks in northern Illinois wilted and died during a single growing season.

Twenty-seven important species of oaks were tested at the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, and all of them proved to be susceptible to wilt. The rapid spread of oak wilt in northern Illinois during the past two years suggests a possible accelerated rate of spread of the disease eastward through Indiana and possibly Michigan, Ohio and the eastern states.

Of the various methods and procedures tested by various workers for the control and prevention of oak wilt, sanitation tests have been most promising. In Iowa, it has been demonstrated that removal of all diseased trees in localized areas, and all living oaks in a 50-foot perimeter beyond the diseased trees prevented the spread of wilt for the duration of the tests. These tests were conducted over a period of several years. In Wisconsin, local control of spread has been obtained by the poisoning of healthy oaks adjacent to diseased trees. This procedure apparently interrupts an extensive underground system of intergrafted roots through which spread of the disease from tree to tree might take place. The fungus spreads so rapidly in the sapwood of red and black oaks that removal of wilting branches by pruning is ineffective. Removal of the first few wilting branches in white and bur oaks may keep the tree healthy for a few years, but they are subject to reinfection. Prompt pruning after infection appears on white and bur oaks might be justified on valuable specimen trees but not as a general procedure.

The spread of oak wilt to Indiana, reported in 1949, and its accelerated spread in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois during the past two or three years show the urgent need for intensive research on this disease. This research should center on the means of spread of the fungus over long distances and on the control of the disease.

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NORDIC HILLS MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Ben Gee, Course Superintendent of Nordic Hills Golf Club played host to the Midwest Association on August 7th. Twenty four members took to the fairways, and after completion reported that the grounds, rough and greens were in excellent condition. Light refreshments were available at the 13th tee—and by the way, it was on the house.

After a tasty buffet supper, a short business meeting was held for the purpose of disposing of some important matters. With reference to a letter from the Secretary's office, NSGA requesting each district to submit the name of one member of their organization as a potential candidate for the National Slate, it was unanimously agreed by those present that Mr. Frank Dinelli represent our group as an able and qualified man for consideration by the NSGA Nominating Committee. Frank has a good record in the Midwest having served as President, and was a director for several terms, and now heads up the committee which will entertain the ladies during the NSGA Conference in Chicago. The Midwest recommend Mr. Dinelli without reservation to the National Nominating Committee.

The meeting closed in good order AT AN EARLY HOUR, and the assembled multitude retired to the recreation room for an interesting bull session.

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