

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

## Region 8 Main Office

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2/27/2026

Hello,

In September of 2025, Department staff confirmed the presence of oak wilt infecting trees at a few sites in the towns of South Bristol, Naples, Middlesex, and Italy. Oak wilt is a serious tree disease that was first detected in the Great Lakes Region of the United States in 1944. Since that time it has spread throughout the Midwest, killing thousands of oak trees each year. Oak wilt causes blockage of the water conducting vessels of oak trees, slowing the movement of water within the tree. This causes the leaves to wilt and drop off. Infected red oak trees typically die within a few weeks. White oaks may also be killed, though it can take years.

The disease spreads from tree to tree through underground root systems and by beetles that are attracted to the fungal spores of infected trees. In addition, the spread of oak wilt disease is associated with the movement of firewood. The Department has established a Quarantine District and Protective Zone encompassing the towns of South Bristol, Middlesex, and Italy, as well as neighborhoods in Bristol and Naples, to help prevent the spread of this fungus to the surrounding area and other areas of the state.

Movement of oak wood and firewood are prohibited by the Oak Wilt Quarantine District, without the written consent of the Department. Limited transportation permits may be obtained by reaching out to your local DEC office. The Quarantine District does not regulate the cutting of trees, but the Department recommends sealing prunes on oaks with asphalt or latex-based paint within and around the quarantine to prevent the potential for spore-carrying beetles to infect new oak trees. The Department will be monitoring trees for oak wilt symptoms with aerial surveys, ground surveys, and sampling throughout the growing season.

Below is a copy of the Emergency Order that established the Oak Wilt Quarantine District and a fact sheet describing it in more detail. Please call DEC Forester Brice June, 585-226-5330 with any questions regarding the quarantine or email [foresthealth@dec.ny.gov](mailto:foresthealth@dec.ny.gov) with pictures to report symptomatic trees. You may also visit DEC's oak wilt web page at <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/forest-health/oak-wilt> to learn more about this disease and the quarantine. Your cooperation with these regulations is appreciated and will assist DEC with this eradication effort.

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Lands and Forests

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### STATE OF NEW YORK: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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In the Matter of an Emergency Order for  
the Establishment of a Quarantine District and  
Protective Zone to Prevent the Spread of  
Oak Wilt Disease Pursuant to  
ECL § 9-1303

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### ORDER

#### WHEREAS:

- Oak wilt is a serious tree disease that was first detected in the Great Lakes Region of the United States in 1944. Since that time, it has spread, killing thousands of oak trees each year. Oak wilt is caused by a fungus, *Bretziella fagacearum*, which causes blockage of the water conducting vessels (xylem) of host trees slowing the movement of water within the tree whereby the leaves wilt and drop off. Infected red oak trees typically die within a few weeks of infection. The disease is spread through underground root systems and by beetles that colonize infected trees. In addition, the spread of oak wilt disease is associated with the movement of firewood and other wood products. Thus, immediate action by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") is necessary to eliminate this infestation and prevent the spread of this fungus to protect oak trees in the surrounding area and the entire state;
- In 2008, oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in New York State in the community of Glen Oaks within the town of Glenville, Schenectady County, New York. Commissioner Grannis issued an emergency order directing staff to develop an eradication plan with public involvement and to notify affected landowners.
- Department staff confirmed that oak wilt disease had infected oak trees in the Town of Canandaigua and the Town of South Bristol, Ontario County, New York in 2016 and 2018, respectively. Commissioner Seggos issued an order for each infected area directing staff to develop an eradication plan with public involvement and to notify affected landowners; that order further established a protective zone;
- In September 2019, DEC confirmed that oak wilt disease had infected oak trees in two

locations within the Town of Middlesex, Yates County, New York. The first location being on Widmer Road and the second being within the Bare Hill Unique Area. An order was issued to develop an eradication plan with public involvement and to notify affected landowners; that order further established a protective zone;

- In October of 2021, DEC confirmed that oak wilt had infected an oak tree in southern Middlesex and an oak tree in northern Italy, Yates County, New York. Both locations are within the Great Hill Nature Preserve; the first is on Widmer Road and the second on South Hill Road;
- In August of 2025, DEC discovered oak wilt had infected trees at locations in the towns of South Bristol, Ontario County, New York; Middlesex, Yates County, New York; and Italy, Yates County, New York. An additional infection was discovered at Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area in the Town of Naples, Ontario County, New York.
- Environmental Conservation Law ("ECL") § 9-1303(5) authorizes DEC by order to establish a Quarantine District to prohibit the movement of materials which may be harboring forest tree diseases;
- ECL § 9-1303(7) empowers DEC to establish protective zones for the purpose of preventing the spread of forest tree diseases;
- DEC staff has delineated the area infected with oak wilt disease as follows: all of the Town of South Bristol, all of the Town of Middlesex, all of the Town of Italy, a section of the Town of Bristol at the border of South Bristol and Bristol, and a section of the town of Naples at the border of Italy and Naples, as described on Schedule A, which shall be known hereinafter as the "Quarantine District and Protective Zone"; and;
- ECL § 9-1303(7) provides that in establishing protective zones, DEC shall have the authority to enter onto private lands to make such modification in the composition of forest growth as it may deem necessary for the purpose of preventing the spread of forest tree diseases, including: spraying, cutting, destroying or otherwise treating trees or other vegetation located in the Protective Zone.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to ECL § 9-1303 and based upon the above:

1. **I HEREBY FIND** that Oak Wilt Disease has infected oak trees in the Town of South Bristol and Town of Naples, Ontario County, New York, and in the Town of Middlesex and Town of Italy, Yates County, New York and that, in order to protect the forests of New York State, DEC must take immediate action to eradicate these infestations and prevent its

spread;

- 1A.** Except as authorized by DEC by permit, no person shall move any living, dead, standing, cut or fallen oak trees or any portion thereof, including branches, logs, stumps or roots, green oak lumber and firewood (of any species) outside of the Quarantine District and Protective Zone unless it has been chipped to less than one (1) inch in two (2) dimensions or firewood that has been treated in a kiln certified by New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets (AGM) to reach a core temperature of seventy one (71) degrees Celsius (one hundred sixty (160) degrees Fahrenheit) for seventy five (75) minutes (refer to CRR-NY 192.5);
- 1B.** Oak nursery stock grown for a period exceeding two years within the Quarantine District and Protective Zone may be moved out of the Quarantine District and Protective Zone only pursuant to a permit issued by the AGM, Division of Plant Industry, specifically authorizing such movement, and only if the shipping nursery is under a compliance agreement with the AGM, Division of Plant Industry. This compliance agreement will require oak wilt surveys in nurseries and specify production practices to minimize the risk of spreading oak wilt through nursery stock movement. It will also require nursery growers handling regulated articles to compile, maintain and make available for inspection for a period of two years, records of inventory and sales of regulated articles on a form or forms prescribed by the Commissioner of AGM;
- 1C.** Living or dead oak trees or any portion thereof and firewood (of any species) may be moved outside of the Quarantine District and Protective Zone under a Department, Division of Lands and Forests limited transportation permit, providing the materials are from sources apparently free of oak wilt disease; transportation of such materials shall only occur from August 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>; materials shall be shipped with a copy of the permit and proper shipping documents.
- 2.** I **HEREBY ORDER** DEC staff to continue to develop and implement, with public involvement, a control plan including: (1) the removal of infected and potentially infected host trees, (2) proper disposal of infected material, and (3) any other action reasonably necessary to prevent the spread of oak wilt disease.
- 3.** I **FURTHER ORDER** DEC staff to continue to take reasonable steps and exercise due diligence to notify, work cooperatively with and enter into agreements with affected landowners as appropriate to implement DEC's control plan;
- 4.** I **FURTHER ORDER** that all of the Town of South Bristol, Town of Middlesex, Town of Italy, a section of the Town of Bristol bordering the Town of South Bristol, and a section

of the Town of Naples bordering the Town of Italy, further delineated on Schedule A and the attached map of boundaries, is designated as the Quarantine District and Protective Zone for the purposes of carrying out this order;

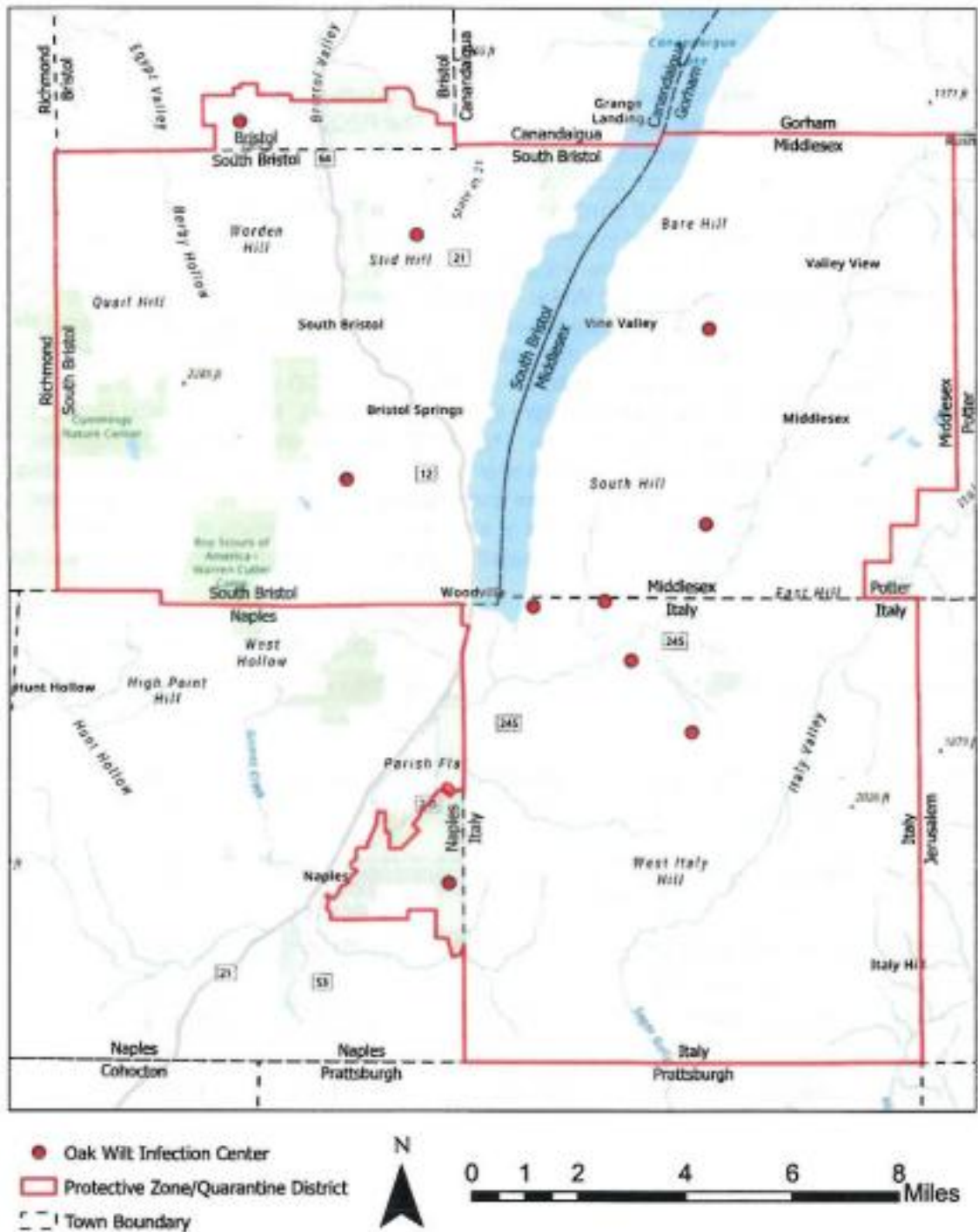
5. **I FURTHER ORDER** that the areas where any oak species is removed by DEC shall be free of intentionally planted oak by humans, except as authorized by DEC in writing, including any appropriate preventive measures;
6. **I FURTHER ORDER** that the Quarantine District and Protective Zone established in this Order supersedes the Quarantine District and Protective Zone established in Bristol and South Bristol by the Order dated June 6, 2023 and the Quarantine District and Protective Zone established in Middlesex and Italy by the Order dated June 6, 2023;
7. **I FURTHER ORDER** that a copy of this order be immediately filed in the Office of the Clerk of Ontario County and Clerk of Yates County; and
8. **THIS ORDER SHALL BE EFFECTIVE** ten days from the filing thereof with such Office and shall remain effective until oak wilt disease has been declared eradicated from within the Quarantine District and Protective Zone.

DATED: February 2, 2026



Amanda Lefton  
Commissioner  
**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

## Schedule A



### General Description of Bristol-Naples-Town of South Bristol-Town of Middlesex-Town of Italy Protective Zone and Quarantine District (PZQD)

Starting at the Canandaigua, Bristol, and South Bristol town boundary intersection, the PZQD goes northwest along tax parcel boundaries until it reaches Dugway Rd. The PZQD continues along tax

parcel boundaries on the southern side of Dugway Rd until turning west along the boundary of 6441 Dugway Rd. The PZQD continues west through Stid Hill WMA to Route 64 and continues northwest along tax parcel boundaries for approximately 1.5 miles until intersecting South Hill Rd. From South Hill Rd the PZQD travels southwest along tax parcel boundaries until reaching Ludlow Drive and continues west to the northwest corner of 7289 Ludlow Drive. From here, the PZQD moves south along tax parcel boundaries and follows the boundary of 5340 South Hill Rd before continuing south to the Bristol and South Bristol town boundary intersection. The PZQD then travels west along the South Bristol town boundary and continues along the entirety of the town boundary until reaching the South Bristol, Naples, and Italy town boundary intersection. The PZQD then travels south along the Italy town boundary approximately 3.5 miles until reaching Hi Tor WMA. The PZQD then follows the border of Hi Tor WMA in Naples until reaching the intersection with the tax parcel 204.00-1-13.100 (Print Key) near Hatch Hill Road. The PZQD then follows the southern boundary of this tax parcel before intersecting again with Hi Tor WMA. The PZQD then follows the border of Hi Tor WMA until reaching the Naples and Italy town boundary intersection on the north side of Basset Rd. The PZQD then continues south and follows the entirety of the Italy town boundary to the Italy, Middlesex, and Potter town boundary intersection. From here, the PZQD continues north and follows the entirety of the Middlesex town boundary to the Canandaigua, Middlesex, and Gorham town boundary intersection on Canandaigua Lake. The PZQD then travels southwest through the lake to the Canandaigua, Middlesex, and South Bristol town boundary intersection before traveling west to the Canandaigua, Bristol, and South Bristol town boundary intersection. The PZQD never cuts through a tax parcel, it will include all or none of a parcel. Included parcels in Bristol and Naples are listed in the table below. All parcels located in the towns of South Bristol, Middlesex, and Italy are included in the PZQD.

PRINT_KEY	PRIMARY_OWNER	LOC_ST_NBR	LOC_STREET	CITYTOWN_NAME
152.00-1-35.000	Shaw, Dale A		Dugway Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-36.200	The Finger Lakes Land Trust, I		Dugway Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-36.100	The Finger Lakes Land Trust, I	6371	Dugway Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-62.200	Leach, Larry L		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-61.200	Whillen, Todd Rev Trust	5387	St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-37.000	New York State of DEC		Dugway Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-60.000	New York State of DEC		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-61.100	New York State of DEC		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-62.100	Simmons, Don		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-66.100	BHRP LLC		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-63.000	Calcagno, Fred	5316	St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-65.200	Notebaert, Chad A	5276	St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-64.111	BHRP LLC		South Hill Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-67.100	Riefer-Estate, Theresa A	5260	St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-67.200	Sikora Alan R		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-65.110	Notebaert, Chad A		St Rt 64	Bristol
152.00-1-38.130	New York State of DEC		Dugway Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-38.110	New York State of DEC	6423	Dugway Rd	Bristol
152.00-1-38.120	Spychalski, Dean R	6441	Dugway Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-30.111	Ivers, Lisa A	7210	Ludlow Dr	Bristol

151.00-1-34.220	Padro, Lizzie M	5215	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-41.111	Davenport, Michael	5343	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-42.200	Hass, Glenn M	5357	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-42.112	Tones, Jason	5360	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-42.111	Tones Jason R		South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-38.130	Tones, Jason R	5344	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-40.000	Davenport, Michael	5329	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-38.210	Davenport, Michael		South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-38.221	Niagara Mohawk	5311	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-35.311	Kohlenberg, Terri L	5277	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-35.211	Smith, Warren L	5261	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-36.000	Coates, Bruce W	5260	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-37.000	Catharina & Nicholas Cohen Tr	7289	Ludlow Dr	Bristol
151.00-1-74.111	Tones Jason R		South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-38.111	Tones Living Trust	5280	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-74.211	Blakesley, Eric	5340	South Hill Rd	Bristol
151.00-1-42.121	Roeland, Steven C	5375	South Hill Rd	Bristol
201.00-1-27.100	New York State Conserv Dept		East Hill Rd	Naples
201.00-1-26.000	New York State Conserv Dept		St Rt 245	Naples
201.00-1-25.000	New York State Conserv Dept		St Rt 245	Naples
204.00-1-18.200	New York State Conserv Dept		Co Rd 21	Naples
204.00-1-13.220	JEK Revocable Trust	8315	Hatch Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-13.210	JEK Revocable Trust	8300	Hatch Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-10.000	Brayman, Theresa		East Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-13.100	JEK Revocable Trust		Hatch Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-3.000	New York State Conserv Dept		East Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-2.000	New York State Conserv Dept		East Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-11.000	NYS-DEC		East Hill Rd	Naples
204.00-1-12.000	New York State Conserv Dept		East Hill Rd	Naples
201.00-1-70.210	Dept. of Env. Conservation		St Rt 245	Naples
201.00-1-28.000	New York State Conserv Dept		St Rt 245	Naples
204.05-1-10.000	New York State Conserv Dept		Mark Cir	Naples

# What Does an Oak Wilt Quarantine District Mean For You?



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Oak wilt, a serious disease that kills oak trees, has been confirmed in several towns across New York State. Infected oaks in the red oak group (leaves with pointed tips as in scarlet oak, pin oak, northern red oak, etc.) typically die within a few weeks. Oaks in the white oak group (leaves with rounded tips as in white oak, swamp white oak, bur oak, etc.) are also killed, though it may take years. DEC has issued emergency orders that establish quarantine districts around the infected areas to help prevent the spread of oak wilt.

## What is an oak wilt quarantine district?

It is a restricted area put in place around a neighborhood, town, or county after oak wilt is confirmed there. An oak wilt quarantine district has been established in parts of Ontario County and Yates County, including the entire towns of Middlesex, Italy, and South Bristol, and parts of the towns of Bristol and Naples.

## Why are the oak wilt quarantine districts in place?

The goal of an oak wilt quarantine district is to prevent the spread of the disease by prohibiting the movement of potentially infected oak wood. Oak wilt can be spread by beetles that come into contact with fungal spore mats. These spore mats form under the bark of trees killed by oak wilt. The spore mats can attract several kinds of beetles, which pick up the spores as they crawl around. When these beetles fly to new trees, they bring the fungus with them, potentially spreading the disease to new areas. Infected oak firewood, logs, and branch debris can also contain spore mats, so moving these materials contributes to the spread of the disease.

## Prohibited from leaving the quarantine district

- Oak logs or branches
- Wood pieces less than 29 inches long, no matter the species

## Allowed to leave the quarantine district

- Chipped wood (must be 1 inch by 1 inch or smaller)
- Wood pieces 29 inches long or greater from trees other than oak
- Firewood that has been heat-treated to 71° C (160° F) for 75 minutes, as per the New York State Firewood Regulation.

## Why can't I move untreated firewood out of a quarantine district?

Once wood is cut to firewood size (typically less than 29 inches), it is difficult to tell one species from another. To account for the difficulty in identification and make sure no infected oak wood is moved out of the quarantine district, wood pieces less than 29 inches in length are prohibited from leaving the area, regardless of species.



Oak wilt-killed tree



Spore pads, like the black area shown in this photo, may be present in infected trees and firewood.

## What is DEC doing about oak wilt in my neighborhood?

### Monitoring

DEC will conduct aerial surveys over and around the quarantine districts from July to September to locate trees showing symptoms of oak wilt. Field crews will check these, as well as neighboring oaks, through ground surveys and sampling to determine if they are infected with oak wilt. When symptomatic trees are located on private property, owners will be contacted before ground surveys or sampling take place. Field crews will also check trees reported by the public.



Aerial and ground surveys will help locate new infected trees

### Management

After surveys have been completed, DEC will develop site plans and activities to manage oak wilt infections with the goal of eliminating the disease from the area. Activities include establishing quarantine districts, and may also include the removal of infected trees, removal of nearby non-infected oak trees to prevent the spread of oak wilt through tree roots, and/or the installation of trenches to sever root connections. As with surveying, property owners will be informed of the management strategy for oak wilt at their site prior to any activities being conducted.

### What can I do?

- Follow the quarantine regulations and don't move infected oak or untreated firewood out of a quarantine district.
- Visit DEC's website at [on.ny.gov/oakwilt](https://on.ny.gov/oakwilt) to learn about the symptoms of oak wilt.
- Take pictures of trees showing symptoms and/or make note of the location.
- Report symptomatic trees to DEC at [on.ny.gov/foresthealthreportform](https://on.ny.gov/foresthealthreportform).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

Division of Lands and Forests

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Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



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