



CITY FORESTER William LeBold and Forestry Foreman Harvey Rasch inspect an elm log pile at a home on Windemere. Elm bark beetles were found in abundance beneath the bark. These beetles soon will leave the logs to feed on healthy elms. If the logs are infected with Dutch Elm disease, the beetles will transmit the disease to healthy trees. LeBold has offered to help residents identify such woodpiles and his department will help dispose of the wood if residents will call the department. (Eccentric Photo) At right, American elm bark beetle, greatly enlarged.



Elm disease. Thus property owners are required by law to get rid of dead elm wood.

THE CITY is anxious to assist citizens in this chore. They have arranged to cart the wood away and destroy it if the citizen will move it to the edge of the street. On April 12, city trucks will tour the city for this collection. Citizens are urged to cooperate by moving any dead elm logs or branches to the curb in front of their homes. The second phase of the beetle extermination campaign is through a spraying program. The city commission recently has approved the expenditure of \$7,000 for equipment and spray to carry on this program.

DUTCH ELM disease is introduced to healthy elms through the feeding habits of the beetle. The hatching beetles eat their way out of the diseased elm wood collecting spores of the fungus on the way. Then they fly to healthy elms to eat bark in the crotches of young branches.

As they eat, the fungus from their legs and wings is introduced to the sapwood of the tree. It has been noted that the beetles crawl about for some time after alighting on a tree before beginning to eat. This makes a successful spraying program possible. DDT solutions are sprayed on the tree and the beetle, in moving to eat, can be killed before he starts his meal.

THE FORESTRY department's plans to spray all elm trees on public property will be carried on in two stages. The first spraying will be done before buds appear on the trees. This will be followed by another coverage when the tree is just beginning to put out leaves. Spraying fully-leaved trees is less suc-

cessful since the leaves interfere with the saturation of the crotches where the beetle feeds.

CITIZENS are asked to spray the elm trees on their property. Because it will be occupied full time in spraying public trees, the forestry department will not be

able to spray private trees. However, LeBold has offered to answer telephoned requests as to where adequate commercial spray assistance can be obtained.

LeBold also said that subdivision organizations will be asked to encourage spraying programs for private trees.



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Elm Disease Is Threat To 16,000 Trees in B'ham

By GIL HERMAN

Half of the shade trees in Birmingham, its 16,000 American elms, are being threatened with destruction by a fungus type infection known as Dutch Elm disease.

The disease first came to the city in 1952, and at first was confined to a small area east of Adams road. It now has spread to surround Birmingham, and all of the American elms that grace the streets and yards in the city are imperiled.

This disease, whose yeast-like spores spread through the circulatory system of the elm tree and choke it to death, is not known to be curable. Once a tree is infected it will die, sometimes in three weeks, sometimes in three years. Apparently the only way to stall and possibly stop its spread is to control the agent that carries the fungus spores from diseased wood to healthy trees.

Two bugs are known to be carriers of Dutch Elm disease. They are the American and the

European elm bark beetles. These beetles we have had with us always. They are considered harmless in themselves, but when the Dutch Elm fungus is once introduced into an area, they spell death to elm trees.

City Forester William LeBold has worked out a two-pronged offensive in an effort to stamp out these beetles.

Both elements of LeBold's plan require 100 percent cooperation on the part of the public.

First phase of the attack is to destroy all dead elm wood in the

area. Bark beetles can carry on the process of reproduction only in dead elm wood. With their nesting places destroyed, the beetles soon would die out.

WHILE THIS felling out of dead elm wood is an all-year proposition, the most successful time is in the winter and early spring while beetles are dormant. Every hatch of beetle eggs than can be forestalled means a lessening in the danger of spread of Dutch Elm disease.

At the present time, workers in the city forestry department are seeking out collections of dead elm wood. When such collections are found, the workers inform the person upon whose property it is found. It is then the property owner's responsibility to dispose of the wood.

A city ordinance, passed last year, makes it a misdemeanor for persons to harbor material that could foster the spread of Dutch

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