



THE OAK WILT SUPPRESSION PROJECT

Demian F. Gomez, PhD.
Regional Forest Health Coordinator
Texas A&M Forest Service

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1



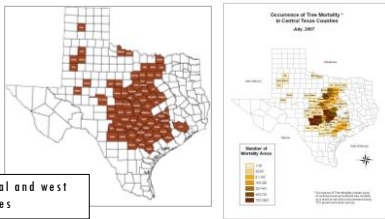
OAK WILT SUPPRESSION PROJECT

"The overall goal of the Texas A&M Forest Service's Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project is to minimize the spread of oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) in central Texas"

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2

OAK WILT OCCURRENCE IN TEXAS



Confirmed in 76 central and west Texas counties

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3



OAK WILT SUPPRESSION PROJECT

- Since 1988.
- Initiated by the Texas A&M Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection (USFS/FHP).
- Professional staff to assist private landowners across central Texas.

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4

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTNERS

- Texas A&M Forest Service
- USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection (USFS/FHP)
- Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab
- Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists
- Texas Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture.

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5



GOALS OF THE SUPPRESSION PROJECT

- 1) Provide public awareness and education about oak wilt
- 2) Identify and map mortality centers with ground verification of oak wilt
- 3) Provide treatment recommendations and cost-shares (when applicable) to landowners
- 4) Conduct post suppression evaluations on cost-shared treatments to determine efficacy
- 5) Establish and maintain detailed and accurate records

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REGIONAL AREAS

- Seven foresters/woodland ecologists.
- Six central Texas regions.
- Provide technical on-site services to landowners.



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COST-SHARES

Cost-shares may be available to private landowners:

- Containment trenching around oak wilt centers
- Pushing or rouging all oaks within the boundaries of cost-shared trenches
- Removal of diseased red oak

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COST-SHARES

Trenching: 40% of actual costs not to exceed \$1000.00 per individual per year with a maximum of \$3,000.00 per project per year.

Red oak removal: 40% of actual costs not to exceed \$500 per individual per year.

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9

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR COST-SHARES

- 1) Removal of dead trees
- 2) Trenching around healthy stands of trees
- 3) Secondary trenches
- 4) Engineering charges, consulting fees or permit fees
- 5) Loss or reduction in revenues from the land
- 6) Stump grinding
- 7) Fungicide treatments
- 8) Replanting or landscaping

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CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR COST-SHARES

- 1) Complete containment of the disease center
- 2) Relative isolation of the disease center
- 3) High potential of fungal mat formation (red oaks)
- 4) Compliance with Cultural Resources Preservation Act

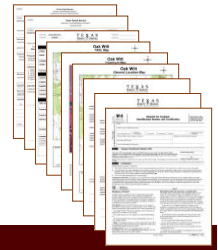


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11

COST SHARE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Cost-Share Application
- Treatment Plan
- Cultural Resources Survey Form
- TARL Records Check
- Treatment Maps
- General Location Map
- Underground Utility Waiver
- Cultural Resources Acknowledgement Form
- W-9 Tax Identification Form



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12



PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1988 – 2021

- 3,092 Centers Trenched – 854 Total Contracts
- 3,572,263 Feet (677 miles) Trenches Installed
- 3,736 Red Oak Trees Removed
- 161 miles of non-cost share Trenches

70% Trenching Success

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13



OAK WILT SUPPRESSION PROJECT

- Sufficient and sustained program funding has been critical.
 - \$2,815,416 Distributed Cost-Shares
 - \$7,899,305.00 Total Costs
- Economic analysis - benefit:cost ratio of 6:1

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14



PROJECT OBSTACLES

- Rapid increase in human population with new residents unfamiliar with oak wilt.
- Small staff with involvement in other projects.
- No state-mandated funding.
- Cost of trenching has increased since 1990.



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15

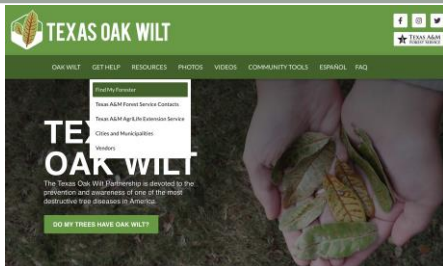


PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Public education is essential.
- Public awareness - www.texasoakwilt.org

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16



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17



OAK WILT RESOURCES

Texas Oak Wilt Information Partnership website:
<http://texasoakwilt.org>

Texas A&M Forest Service website:
<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

How To Identify and Manage Oak Wilt in Texas brochures

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18



Thank You!

Demian F. Gomez

[Linktr.ee/demiangomez](https://www.linkedin.com/in/demiangomez)

Regional Forest Health Coordinator
Texas A&M Forest Service

Central Texas – Texas A&M Forest Service

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