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## Dutch elm disease found in area trees

*Elm trees on or near campus may be afflicted with the deadly and highly contagious disease*

By Michael Hines  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Two campus-area American elm trees have been removed in recent months because of disease, and pending tests, more could be taken out soon.

The University has about five American elms, and the City of Eugene is currently testing them for Dutch elm disease, said Tim King, campus and grounds supervisor. The testing comes after two trees near 17th Avenue and Agate Street were removed because they had the deadly and highly contagious disease.

The removed trees will be replaced this winter by an undetermined tree species that is not susceptible to the disease; one possibility is oak, said Johnny Medlin, support services manager.

Dutch elm disease is transmitted through root contact and by beetles moving from tree to tree. The illness essentially chokes off the trees' water supply, causing droopy limbs and yellow leaves.

The only way to fight Dutch elm disease is to remove diseased trees as soon as possible to prevent spreading, King said.

The city has tested a total of 22 trees — 16 of them near campus

on Agate Street, Medlin said. Trees from the east side of campus to 15th Avenue and Olive Street have been or are being tested for the disease. Although many of the trees are near campus, the city has decided to take over the Dutch elm disease problem.

One tree in front of Allen Hall and another in the Education Building's courtyard are especially valuable for their age and shade, King said.

The city has sent tree samples to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for diagnosis, but King said he did not know when the results would come back. The city will test the elms again in about a year.

"We've always kept an eye on them," King said.

Fighting the disease is a difficult task because if the disease is in small concentrations, the result can be a false negative, Medlin said.

King said all of the campus American elms look healthy and have not shown any signs of the disease.

Agate Street suffered a similar bout with Dutch elm disease 12 years ago. However, Medlin said Eugene has not had nearly as many problems as Corvallis and many East Coast cities, which have more elm trees. Many of these cities have experienced large-scale losses of elms because of the disease.

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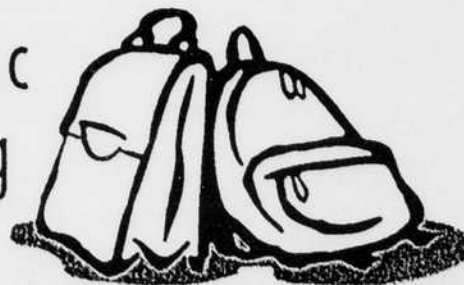
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