



BRANCHES TREE CARE LTD.

DIANNE HUTTON PR5142A

780-721-9161

branchestreecare@gmail.com

DUTCH ELM DISEASE

IN SIMPLE TERMS:

DUTCH ELM DISEASE IS ACTUALLY CAUSED BY AN INSECT. THERE ARE 4 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF INSECTS THAT ARE DECLARED PESTS BUT ONLY 2 ARE A PROBLEM HERE IN CENTRAL ALBERTA, EUROPEAN ELM BARK BEETLE AND NATIVE ELM BARK BEETLE. ADULT BARK BEETLES DEPOSIT THEIR EGGS ON LEDGES OR RIDGES IN THE TREE BARK. THE EGG HATCHES, THEN CHEWS IT'S WAY INTO THE TREE MAKING A ROUND ENTRANCE HOLE ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE TIP OF A PEN. BARK BEETLES FEED ON THE CAMBIUM, IT'S THE SPONGY LAYER BETWEEN THE WOOD TISSUE OF THE NEWEST GROWTH RING AND THE FIRST LAYER OF THE BARK. IT'S WHERE ALL THE HORMONES OF THE TREE ARE. THE LARVAE CONTINUE TO EAT IN SQUIGGLY LINES BETWEEN THE WOOD AND BARK UNTIL IT CHANGES INTO AN ADULT WHERE IT CAN FLY OUT OF THE TREE. BOTH ADULT AND LARVAE EAT THE CAMBIUM, LIVING UNDER THE BARK UNTIL WINTER COMES WHEN THEY GO DORMANT UNDER THE BARK.

SO WHERE DOES DUTCH ELM DISEASE COME IN?

THE LARVAE'S SHELL PRODUCES A BACTERIA. AS THE LARVAE MOVES THE BACTERIA RUBS OFF ON THE SURROUNDING WOOD TISSUE. THE BACTERIA IS ABSORBED INTO THE TREE MOVING THROUGH IT'S VASCULAR SYSTEM AND GOING SYSTEMIC FAST. THE BACTERIA IS WHAT CAUSES THE TREE TO DIE, THERE IS NO CURE, JUST PROPER PRUNING HABITS OF NOT PRUNING AN ELM TREE WHILE IT AND THE BEETLES ARE ACTIVE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR ELM TREE HAS DUTCH ELM DISEASE?

IT WILL DIE AND FAST, USUALLY WITHIN 6 MONTHS.

HOW DO THE BARK BEETLES KNOW WHAT TREE IS AN ELM?

THEY CAN SMELL THE TREE, ESPECIALLY THE SAWDUST WHILE IT'S BEING PRUNED OR REMOVED. BUGS SMELL THEIR TREES FROM MILES AWAY, IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

IF YOUR TREE HAS DYING BRANCHES OR LEAVES GIVE DI A CALL AND SHE WILL INVESTIGATE.

