

SUFFOLK COUNTY 2016 OAK WILT ANNUAL UPDATE



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

In Suffolk County, oak wilt is now confirmed in 3 towns, Islip, Riverhead, and Southold. For background information on oak wilt, please visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html>.

Trees suspected of having oak wilt were mapped using aerial and ground surveys

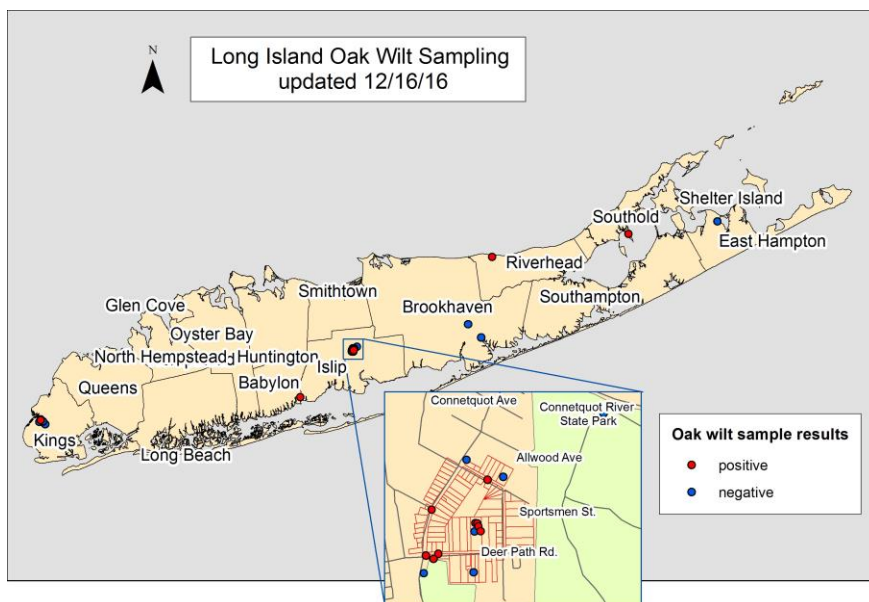
- Aerial surveys were conducted July 14th and July 18th over Central Islip.
 - DEC staff looked for symptomatic trees within 4 miles from infected trees.
 - A total of 72 symptomatic oak trees were mapped during these aerial flights.
- The results of the aerial surveys, as well as reports from the public, led to 102 symptomatic trees being checked by DEC staff during ground surveys.



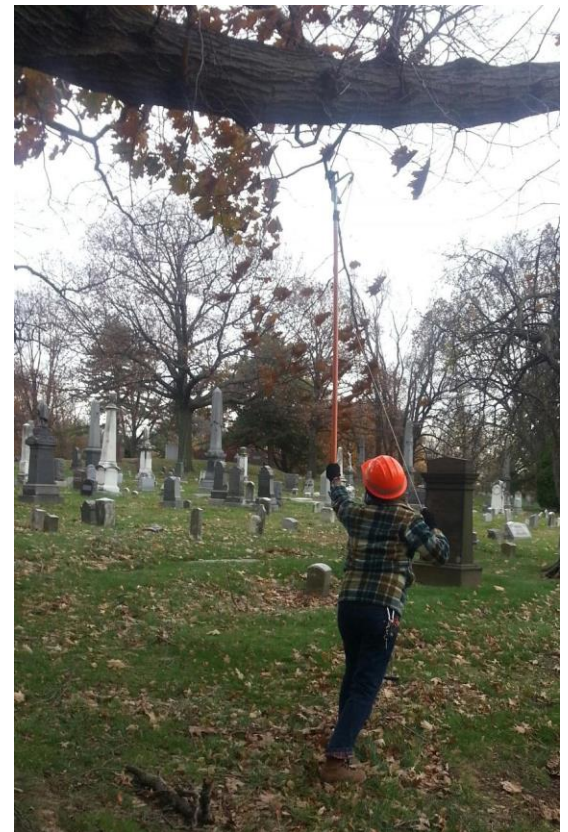
Symptomatic trees were mapped during aerial surveys

Samples from symptomatic trees were sent to Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic for testing

- 33 samples were taken from trees suspected of having oak wilt during ground surveys.
- Of these, 15 samples tested positive for oak wilt.



Map of positive and negative samples taken in 2016



DEC Jennifer Kotary takes a sample from a symptomatic tree during a ground survey

Trees in the Oak Wilt Protective Zones were measured and tagged for future monitoring and/or management

- Distances between infected and uninfected trees in the Oak Wilt Protective Zones were measured in Central Islip. Tree diameters were also recorded.
 - Measurements taken by DEC staff Jennifer Kotary, Don Hughes, Rick Palmer, and Andy Burgher identified 110 trees that will require monitoring or possible removal.
 - Jennifer Kotary determined the types of soils on properties with infected oaks which will aid in determining how far oak tree roots might be connected. Connected oak trees may spread oak wilt between each other.

Efforts Planned for Early 2017

- All infected trees will be cut before spring 2017.
- Starting in April 2017, DEC plans to increase sampling efforts in and around areas with infected trees.

Oak Wilt Outreach

- 120 letters and 150 door hangers were sent to homeowners in Islip, informing them about oak wilt and the local infection.
- 250 factsheets were delivered to arborists, horticulturalists, landscapers, and municipalities to inform them on oak wilt symptoms.

Where can I find more information on oak wilt?

Visit DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html> for more information on oak wilt symptoms, DEC's efforts, and what you can do.

Where can I report oak wilt symptoms for my trees?

To report oak wilt, email the DEC Forest Health office foresthealth@dec.ny.gov or call 1-866-640-0652.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Forest Health

Division of Lands and Forests

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

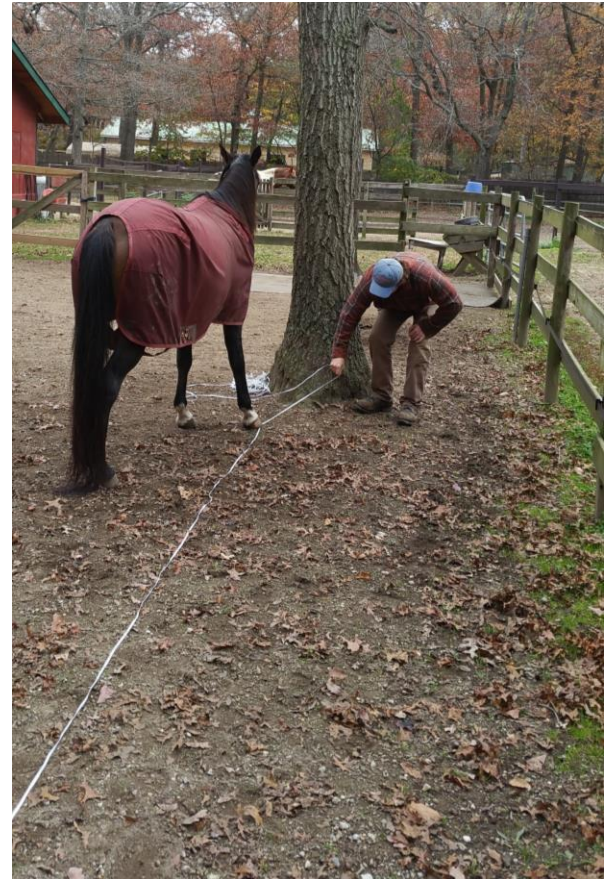
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www.dec.ny.gov

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DEC John Rohan measures the distance from a symptomatic oak to a nearby oak tree



Symptomatic oak leaves from an infected tree

