Subject: Oak Wilt Awareness

Attention homeowners:

Please be aware that the lethal disease called oak wilt, which especially affects species in the red oak group,has been found in our area. The oak wilt fungus is spread primarily when sap-feeding beetles carry oak wilt spores to fresh wounds during the early part of the growing season.

It is early enough in the arrival of oak wilt to our area that actions taken by homeowners to minimize risk still have a chance of positively impacting outcomes of oak trees in our neighborhood.

**The best prevention method is to only prune oak trees in cold winter months when insects are not active. So, the coming winter months are the time to prune your oak trees!** Avoid pruning or damaging oaks from mid-March through June. The trees are more susceptive to the disease a couple weeks before bud break occurs in the Spring.

For additional information on oak wilt, including symptoms and signs, treatment options, removal of diseased trees, and prevention: <https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/diseases-pests/oak-wilt>

Thank you for your care of any oak trees on your property!

* Grounds Committee