Oak Decline
FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care





The Two-Lined Chestnut Borer



What It Is:

Oak Decline is a debilitating, and often deadly condition affecting our Bur Oak trees. Bur Oaks are extremely sensitive to small changes to their growing environment and are often placed under great stress, or die from grade changes, compaction of soil around the root zone, acute injury from construction, or changes to the soil air-to-moisture ratio.

Since 1986, Bur Oak trees in southern Manitoba have experienced environmentally related stress and dieback leading to considerable damage to landscape, ornamental, and natural stand groupings.

Drought greatly weakens and stresses oaks, causing them to be more vulnerable to insect and disease problems.

Typically, on stressed Oaks, tree foliage wilts from the top downward, turns brown, and normally remains persistent on the branches.

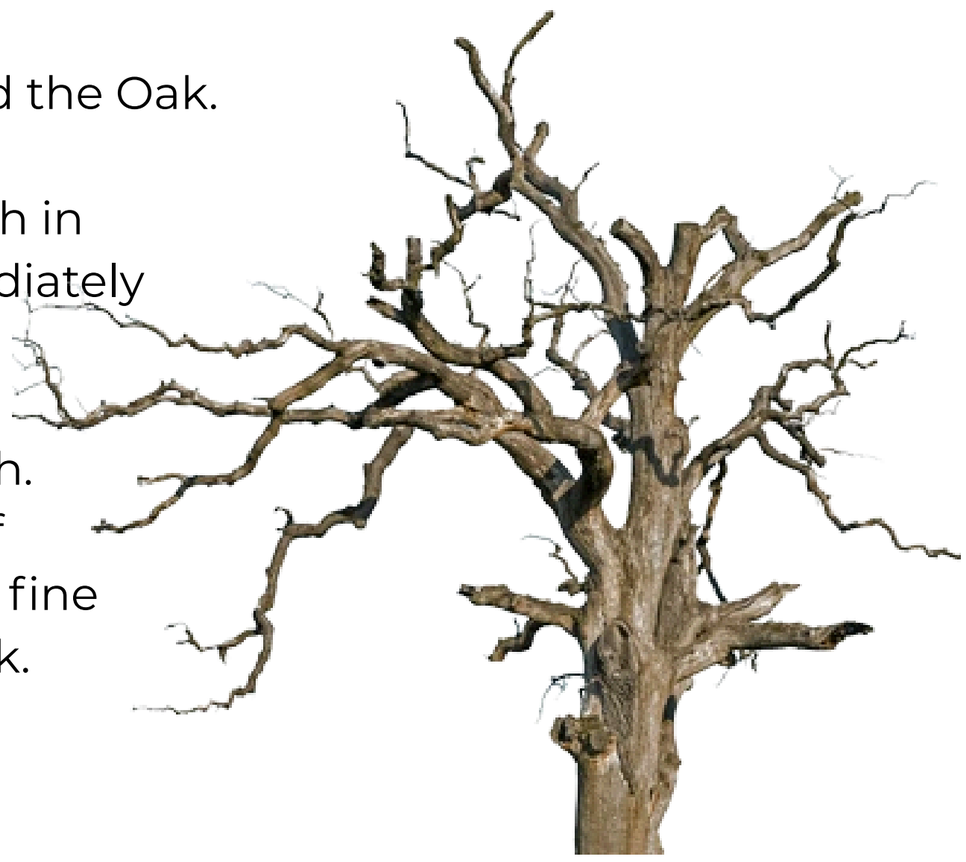
Initial decline due to stress starts a cycle of further deterioration involving the two-lined chestnut borer, Agrilus bilineatus (Weber) which gains importance in the cycle as the decline progresses. The Two-Lined Chestnut Borer is considered a secondary insect, affecting stressed Oaks.

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Prevention:

- Maintain oak trees in a healthy condition through a comprehensive watering program during periods of dry weather and general tree maintenance which includes removal of dead wood by proper pruning methods.
- Protect the base and root systems of oaks and surrounding area during construction. This will prevent root damage.
- Avoid soil compaction around the Oak.
- Fertilizing with a fertilizer high in phosphorous during or immediately after drought periods, this will assist in promoting and stimulating feeder root growth. This is specifically important if the dry period has caused the fine fibrous root system to die back.



Contact:

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