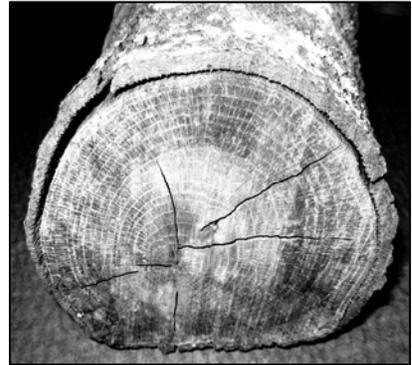


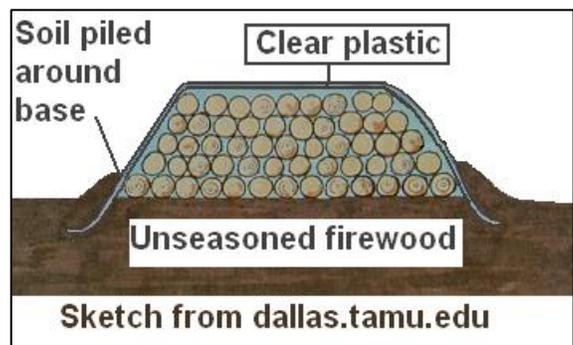
Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of Oak Wilt Through The Transport of Contaminated Firewood

1. If possible, find out exactly where the wood is from to ensure that it has not come from an area infected with oak wilt.
2. *Make every effort to collect or obtain only wood that is properly seasoned (dead and dry).* This can be determined by looking for cracks developing on the cut ends and loose bark that is easily pulled away from the wood.



3. Do not harvest and transport red oak varieties from confirmed oak wilt areas (Spanish Oak or Blackjack Oak). This firewood may still harbor fungal (spore) mats or insects that can potentially carry infectious oak wilt spores to healthy trees.

4. Never stack firewood from trees known or suspected of being infected with the oak wilt fungus near healthy trees. *As an added precaution, cover the wood with CLEAR plastic with the ends properly tucked and sealed.* Avoid using black plastic as holes and tears in the plastic can be easily seen by insects allowing their escape.



5. Firewood from unknown origins should be burned during the winter months. If possible, do not store it to the next season. (*Note: Burning firewood with oak wilt spores does not spread the fungus!* Fungal spores burn, too. The risk comes from transporting infected firewood and storing it where the spores can be picked up by beetles and carried out to infect nearby healthy oaks.)
6. If you are planning to harvest firewood, attempt to cut it in the summer and let it dry in full sun on site before transporting it to urban areas.

If you have any questions or doubts about the proper handling of firewood, please contact the Lakeway City Forester at 608-9722. For more information on oak wilt, visit www.texasoakwilt.org or www.cityoflakeway.com/forester.asp.

This information sheet was developed by the Texas Forest Service. Text was slightly edited and illustrations added by the Lakeway City Forester in October 2007.