

COST SHARES FOR OAK WILT MANAGEMENT

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) administers a federal cost-share program, the Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Project (TOWSP) to assist landowners in their fight against oak wilt. Trenching to contain the spread of oak wilt or removal of certain diseased red oaks may qualify for limited cost shares. Trenching to contain the spread of the disease is capped at 40% of approved costs up to \$5000 per cooperator per year and total project costs capped at 40% of approved costs up to \$20,000 per project. Removal of oak wilt diseased red oaks is capped at 40% of approved costs up to \$1500 per tree and a maximum of \$5000 per cooperator per year.

All treatments must be installed according to TOWSP guidelines and approved by TFS personnel. Project guidelines include full containment of the oak wilt center within installed trenches and relative isolation of the disease center from other centers in the immediate area. Trenches must be installed to a minimum depth of four feet and located no closer than 100 feet from symptomatic trees. Federal guidelines on protection of cultural resources must also be followed and approved. Red oak removals have specific guidelines and are only approved as cost shareable by TFS personnel. An application for cost-shares must be approved before any treatment can begin.

The Texas Forest Service has ten foresters stationed regionally throughout central Texas to provide technical assistance to landowners concerned about oak wilt on their property and to administer the Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Project. Select the 'Getting Help' tab on the home page and click on 'Forest Service Contacts' to identify and contact the forester serving your county.