

POLICY ID: PW-008	TITLE: Oak Wilt Reimbursement Policy
<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REVISION	APPROVED BY VILLAGE BOARD:  DATE: 1/12/2021
EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediate	Village Clerk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Village Property Owners	
APPLIES TO:	

Purpose:

Oak Wilt, a disease affecting all oak species, has been found within the Village through a study of the urbanized sections of the Village. The study showed that there are numerous locations that the disease has been found and the Village is making provisions to contain this disease. One solution is to assist individual property owners with financial aid to pay for a consultant to create a management plan to contain the Oak Wilt on their property as well as the tree and stump removal for sanitation and clean-up of the site. Any of the following programs are dependent upon the Village Board allocating funds in a specific calendar year. Once the allocated funds are depleted during the year, the reimbursements will no longer be available.

Procedure:

- A. Management.** The Village may reimburse any Village of Kronenwetter property owner who works with the Village Forester or who contracts with a professional forestry consultant to prepare a site-specific management plan to execute specific and eligible control techniques.

Specifically the procedure shall be as follows:

When a property owner suspects that they have Oak Wilt on their property, or is contacted by the Village in regard to a possible Oak Wilt Infection. The property owner can grant permission to the Village Forester to confirm the infection and prepare a management plan to control and sanitize the site. If the owner desires, he or she may contract with a consultant, at owner's expense, to confirm the infection and prepare a site-specific management plan for the control and treatment of Oak Wilt. Said plan must be approved by the Village Forester before implementation.

Most Oak Wilt management plans involve the removal of oaks, within the control area, to stop the spread of the infection. Property owners may select to have high quality trees professionally treated with a fungicide to save them from Oak Wilt and to maintain the aesthetic values of the trees and associated tree canopy. This practice must be part of the prepared management plan with save trees being approved by the Village Urban Forester. Costs incurred through this practice are eligible for cost share under the Management cost share program and within the program cost share limits.

After the management plan and treatment work has been completed, the property owner can submit an Oak Wilt Management Cost Share Application to the Village, no later than December 15th of the year in which the consultation was completed.

Village Staff shall review the submitted application and the associated materials and within 15 days shall either submit a reimbursement check back to the property owner in an amount not to exceed 50% of the cost of the consultation, with a maximum of \$300 per property per year, or a letter detailing why the application was denied for reimbursement. Residents that are denied reimbursement may appeal their application to the Village Board of the Village of Kronenwetter.

- B. Sanitation.** The Village may reimburse any Village of Kronenwetter property owner who contracts with a professional tree and stump removal contractor for sanitation and clean-up of the site in accordance to the site-specific management plan that was previously created for the property.

After the management work has been completed as recommended by the property owner hired consultant and the property owner obtains a professional tree and stump removal contractor for sanitation and clean-up of the site, the resident is eligible for cost sharing for the site. The resident can submit an Oak Wilt Sanitation Cost Share Application

to the Village. Any application for work completed in the previous year must be received by January 10th of the following year.

Village Staff shall review the submitted application and the associated materials and within 15 days shall either submit a reimbursement check back to the property owner in an amount not to exceed 33% of the cost of the sanitation, with a maximum of \$400 per property per year, or a letter detailing why the application was denied for reimbursement. Residents that are denied reimbursement may appeal their application to the Village Board of the Village of Kronenwetter.

Rental costs paid by the property owner for equipment rented for the sole purpose of carrying out the sanitation and clean-up in accordance to the site-specific management plan may be eligible for cost sharing at the discretion of the Village. Possible rental costs to be cost shared include the rental of a trailer to haul off trees or branches or the rental of a chainsaw.