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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE



What is wrong with my Oak Trees?

We are still having some issues with Oak trees dying or looking bad, some with dieback or thinning, and we have lost several big Post Oaks and Blackjack trees in different areas of Cooke County. Most of the problems encountered are with Post Oaks because that is what we have the most of here. What Live Oaks there are seem to be doing fine, but always be aware that they are the most susceptible to Oak Wilt disease which has devastated Live Oaks in Central Texas. All Oaks can be affected by Oak Wilt but Live oaks are the most susceptible because of their massive intertwined root system which is a major way to transmit the disease from tree to tree. There really is no cure for Oak Wilt, but a macro-injection system using a fungicide known as Alamo seems to be the best product that is effective and helps prolong the trees life, but it is expensive doing the macro-injection system at a cost of near \$300 per tree depending on the size. You may want to go this route depending on the value you place on your oak tree. No one wants to lose a big oak around the house that provides shade and improves your properties looks and value. Other alternative products to use as an injection would be Propiconazole, Kestrel and Tebuject.

Other major diseases of Oaks include Sudden Oak Death or Decline, Hypoxylon Cankers and forms of root rot. For the last couple of years when we see dieback and thinning, of Oak trees, especially post oaks, I have been suggesting to folks a systemic fungicide called Agri-Fos/with Pentra Bark. We have had good results using this product if the tree is not too far gone. This product is a much cheaper treatment than the macro-injection system and can be applied with only a handheld sprayer compared to the purchase of an injection system. Agri-Fos is a great product but will not work effectively without adding the surfactant Pentra-bark which drives it into the trees vascular system for maximum effectiveness. Agri-Fos/pentra-bark comes in different sizes but it is usually cheaper buying it in the half gallon size, which usually runs about \$75. In a handheld 1-3 gallon sprayer, mix the half-gallon of Agri-Fos with a half-gallon of water and the 3 ounces of Pentra-bark. This will treat approximately 3-4 trees with a diameter of 10-15 inches by soaking the entire trunk of the tree from the ground up to 10 or 12 feet. It is not necessary to spray the foliage, only the trunk. If you have further questions about managing your Oaks or any tree please contact me at marty.morgan@ag.tamu.edu or call 940-668-5412