

NEWS RELEASE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED
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Joan Anderson
Secretary of State

(420 STATE OFFICE BUILDING)
(ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155)
(PHONE 612 - 296 - 2856)

Agriculture Commissioner Bill Walker today announced a quarantine effective Monday, April 24, 1978, which severely restricts the movement of elm wood with bark intact within the state. The quarantine prohibits the movement of all elm wood, including elm firewood, into or through any home rule charter or statutory city or any shade tree disease control area in the unincorporated areas of any county.

"I am only sorry this was not done years ago. Whether diseased or not," continued Walker, "elm wood with bark intact cannot be transported from one city to another, from one part of the state to another. This is important because the bark beetles that spread the fungus which causes Dutch elm disease live under the bark of elm wood. The beetles lay eggs and multiply under the bark. Emerging beetles can carry the spores of the diseased organism to healthy elms. This is why it is critical to restrict the movement of wood."

The quarantine does provide for the movement of such material in municipalities participating in the state Shade Tree Program. Elm wood with bark intact may be transported within these municipalities if such movement has been specifically approved by city officials and if the wood is moved in accord with the local shade tree wood disposal or utilization program.

"Any elm wood product or material transported within the state in violation of the quarantine may be destroyed or returned to the origin at the owner's expense," Walker said. The Commissioner explained that any common carrier, firm, corporation or individual that violates the quarantine may be charged with a misdemeanor.

"There are those who will say this is a severe penalty," Walker noted, "but many municipalities have worked very hard to control the spread of Dutch elm disease. Millions of dollars have been spent in this endeavor. These programs will be severely undermined if this material is brought into these municipalities. In some of our cities, the incidence of Dutch elm disease is very low. With an aggressive sanitation program, these cities might successfully control the disease. Such programs should not be jeopardized by the introduction of these elm products or materials."

The effective date of this quarantine is Monday, April 24, 1978.

31423

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PLANT QUARANTINE NO. 78-1 ELM WOOD

April 24, 1978

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED

APR 26 1978

John Anderson
Secretary of State

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WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that a seriously injurious disease commonly known as Dutch elm disease, is present in the State of Minnesota, and that transportation of elm wood into and through cities and designated disease control areas, will contribute to serious loss and damage to the general welfare, economy, and aesthetics of the state and enhance the further spread of Dutch elm disease:

THEREFORE, under the authority conferred by Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 18.022, subd. 7 and Section 18.48, subds. 1-4, 1, Bill Walker, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Minnesota do hereby establish a quarantine hereinafter setting forth the name of the pest, the disease control areas, the products regulated, the procedures governing movement of elm wood and the penalties:

PESTS: Ceratocystis ulmi (Dutch elm disease fungus), Scolytus multistriatus (smaller European elm bark beetle), Hylurgopinus rufipes (native elm bark beetle)

DISEASE CONTROL AREA: Home rule charter or statutory cities and designated shade tree disease control areas in the unincorporated areas of any county in the State of Minnesota.

REGULATED PRODUCTS: Elm wood of all species with bark intact. This includes all elm logs, branches, brush, and firewood.

ELM PRODUCTS NOT REGULATED: Elm wood products without bark, elm wood chips, or shredded elm wood.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING MOVEMENT: The following movement of all elm wood, including elm firewood, with bark intact, is prohibited: (a) into or through any home rule charter or statutory city as defined by Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 410.015, and (b) into or through any designated disease control areas as defined by Minnesota Statutes Section 18.023, subd. 1(g) (Supp. 1977) in the unincorporated areas of any county. This prohibition shall not apply to movement of such wood pursuant to an approved wood disposal or utilization program authorized by Minnesota Statutes Section 18.023 (Supp. 1977).

PENALTY: 1. Any elm wood product or material transported into and through said cities and said designated disease control areas in violation of this quarantine is subject to destruction or to being returned to the point of origin at the discretion of the Commissioner of Agriculture and at the owner's expense.

2. Any common carrier, firm, corporation, or person who shall transport such products or materials into and through said cities and said designated disease control areas in violation of these quarantine regulations is subject to the misdemeanor penalties set forth in Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 18.60.

This notice and quarantine effective Monday, April 24, 1978. Done in the State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota on Monday, April 24, 1978.

Bill Walker
Bill Walker
Commissioner of Agriculture