

Rapid White Oak Mortality Survey

Citizen reporting form

White oaks are important to the economy of the Ozarks and lands in the Forest Prairie transition zone. These trees provide wood as well as serve as a food source for wildlife. White oaks are an important urban tree, providing shade and beautification to homes. Failure to protect our white oak trees means the loss of jobs, wildlife, and valuable services.

Since 2011, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) have received numerous reports of white oak death that do not fit typical patterns of oak decline or oak wilt. IDNR and MDC staff are working with researchers at the University of Missouri and at US Forest Service stations in Arkansas and Missouri to investigate rapid white oak mortality.

This US Forest Service and MDC funded project has two major components. First a database will be created that contains reports of white oak mortality in Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. The database will be used to determine where rapid white oak mortality is occurring, determine the severity, and to identify any common factors among sites with dying white oaks. Second, a detailed study of tree pathogens and environmental factors associated with dying white oaks will be carried out at two different locations.

We are asking individuals to report areas where the majority of dying trees are white oaks by filling out survey forms. Individuals completing surveys will be helping researchers achieve their goal of identifying factors contributing to white oak mortality so that management strategies.

Form Directions

Site selection and description:

Preference should be given to sites with multiple white oaks dead and dying, especially high quality sites where the majority of dying trees are white oaks. In urban locations, dying white oaks can be located on multiple properties but avoid reporting white oak deaths that are due to human activities like construction. The surveyed area should be approximately ½ acre. It does not matter if the dead and declining trees are in patches or more uniformly distributed.

Be as accurate as possible when providing the site location. Site locations will be used to determine the soil types present at the site. Forms should be turned in by August but will be accepted up until October 2014. Mail forms to Dr. Sharon Reed, University of Missouri, Plant Sciences Division, 108 Waters Hall, Columbia MO 65211 or email a scanned copy to ReedSH@missouri.edu