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May Dutch Elm

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The early spring has resulted in the native elm bark beetle emerging in the first week of April, which is about ten days to two weeks earlier than previously reported in Minnesota.

University of Minnesota entomologists and plant pathologists say a second beetle emergence will occur during late July and August with a potential third emergence in late September and October. The small European beetle adults are expected to emerge between May 15th and June 1st with the second generation during August and September. There is a potential for a third generation during late September and October.

Regarding registered effective insecticides, the scientists say only methoxychlor is a possibility and it adds a very small amount of additional protection. The fungicide benomyl is labeled for leaf sprays and trunk injections, but applied this way it is of little value. Label approval is reported pending at the Environmental Protection Agency for Lignasan B-L-P fungicide, intended for dilution and injection into a root or root flare as low as possible on the tree trunk. This type of application does not protect elm trees against root graft transmission of the disease. These treatments must be made annually and are a rather ineffective method of disease control considering the cost and the benefit derived. Its use can only be justified on elms of unusually high value.

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