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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA •

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yard/garden
radio briefs

Dutch Elm Disease Chemical

(1:00)

University of Minnesota plant pathologists recommend the new chemical for Dutch elm disease control, Lignasan BLP, only for very valuable trees.

Last year some people paid eighty-dollars for injections of the fungicide in a mature elm. This high cost and the need for annual retreatment points to effective simple do-it-yourself devices. The Elm Research Institute has a pressure injector for about one-hundred-dollars.

The Plant Disease Clinic on the University's St. Paul Campus has instructions for individuals who wish to apply the chemical themselves.

Lignasan BLP was recently introduced in Wisconsin and Minnesota. It is available only in five-gallon quantities at a cost of eleven-dollars per gallon at this time. The fungicide is 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.

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These treatments must be made annually and are rather ineffective considering the cost and benefit derived. More testing and time is required to satisfy the many questions raised about its use in Dutch elm disease control, the plant pathologists say.

The basic control of Dutch elm disease is identification of diseased trees, disruption of root grafts and destruction of dying elms where elm bark beetle larvae develop.

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Rhubarb Plants

(0:12)

Remove the big fat buds that develop on your rhubarb plants as soon as you notice them. Cut them off with a knife before they grow tall and open into a seedstalk. This will help the plants to stay vigorous and productive.

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