

## **For the SOS Elms newsletter**

### **Dutch Elm Disease – 2017 Provincial Update**

The Ministry of Environment's 2017 Dutch elm disease (DED) program included: identifying and removing DED-infected trees in seven rural zones; surveying six provincial parks; providing scientific and technical support to individuals and communities dealing with DED; enforcing DED regulations; and reviewing applications to utilize elm wood or to import elm seedlings.

In 2017, the ministry found and removed 253 DED-infected trees in buffer zones around seven communities – Regina, Moose Jaw, Estevan, Indian Head, Balcarres, Wolseley and Tisdale – to help protect elms within the communities. This was a slight decrease from last year, when the ministry removed 278 trees from these areas. Outside of the buffer zones, urban and rural municipalities are responsible for DED management within their jurisdictions.

DED is spreading rapidly in some parts of Saskatchewan. During 2017, surveys found DED-infected trees west and north of the previously identified extent of the disease within the province. This year, several communities experienced their first confirmed DED infections, including the towns of Assiniboia, Imperial and Semans, and the cities of Melfort and Yorkton. Throughout the infected zone, the disease continued to kill elms in farmyards and shelterbelts. Several smaller towns experienced significant tree loss. The affected rural area is expected to expand. For now, the western side of the province remains DED-free.

In 2017, for the first time, DED regulation violations resulted in fines. Four individuals in Kamsack were charged and convicted of offences related to storage of elm firewood.

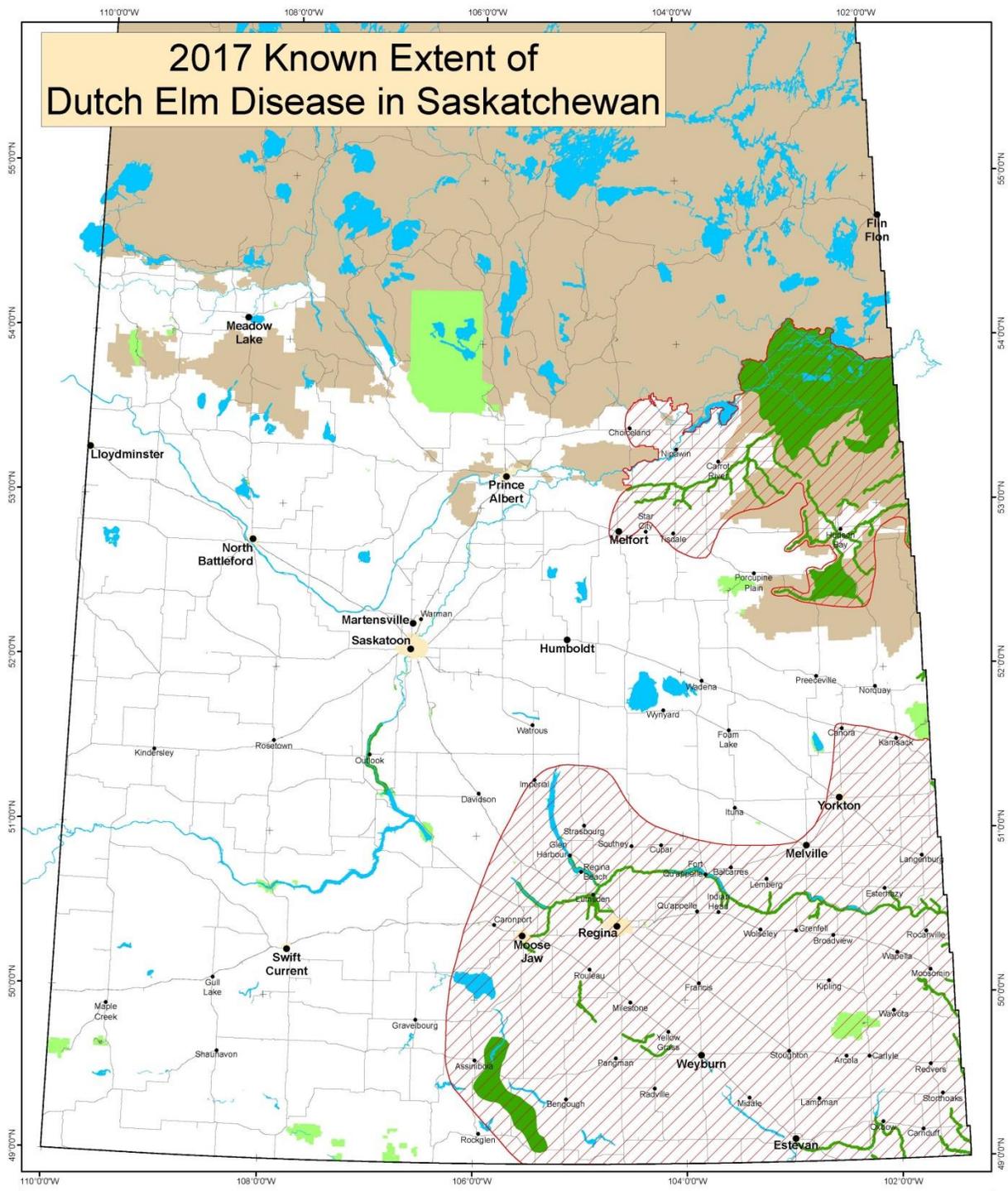
The Ministry of Environment continued to co-operate with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (PCS) to manage DED within provincial parks, with Environment identifying infected trees and PCS co-ordinating tree removals. In 2017, the ministry identified 117 elms for removal within Katepwa, Echo Valley and Rowan's Ravine provincial parks, and the Regina Beach recreation site. Greenwater Lake Provincial Park and the Condie Nature Area were free of DED this year; both have had infections in the past.

The province's Crop Protection Lab continued to provide free sample testing to communities and the public. In 2017, the lab received 306 samples for testing, confirming 141 as DED. Another 24 samples tested positive for Dothiorella wilt.

The Ministry of Environment encourages people to take positive actions to prevent the spread of DED into their communities, including proper elm pruning done outside the annual ban period and the appropriate disposal of elm wood. It is also important to respect regulations prohibiting the transportation, sale and storage of elm firewood, and establishing standards for tree care professionals. Communities can help to enforce these regulations by appointing municipal DED inspectors.

For more information about DED or other ministry programs, please contact the Ministry of Environment's general inquiry line at 1-800-567-4224, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# 2017 Known Extent of Dutch Elm Disease in Saskatchewan





Government  
of  
Saskatchewan

● Cities	■ Native Elm
● Towns	— Highways
▨ DED Infected Areas 2017	■ Provincial Forests
■ Lakes/Rivers	■ Parks

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometers

Projection: UTM Zone 13 Datum: NAD83 CSRS  
Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, September 2017  
Note: This data is intended to show general areas and does not claim to be 100% accurate.

