

# arboricultural services

## Dutch Elm Disease.

Dutch Elm disease is a disease which has devastated the elm population in this country over the last 30 years or so. It has been a problem in Blackpool since the 1970s. The disease cannot be easily contained and the elms can be dead within weeks of infection. The severity of the attacks can be governed by amongst other things climatic conditions. This year was a bad year with an increase in identified infections over previous years. A felling regime has been initiated which will unfortunately mean that certain tree lined roads and wooded areas will look rather grey without these beautiful trees to soften the landscape.

The symptoms of this disease are the result of a fungus infecting the vascular (water conducting) system of the tree. Infection of the tree results in clogging of vascular tissues, preventing water movement to the crown and causing visual symptoms as the tree wilts and dies.

These visual symptoms begin as wilting of the leaves and proceed to yellowing and browning. The pattern of this wilting within the crown is determined by where the fungus is introduced in the tree. The fungus is spread by two ways, either by the elm bark beetle or root grafting from adjacent trees.

In order to try and contain this disease we have to fell infected or dead trees, but wherever possible replacement trees are planted in suitable locations. If you suspect that an elm has been infected in your neighbourhood or you have any queries about the disease or any other tree related problem please do not hesitate to contact Phil Morton on 01253 478263.or [phil.morton@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:phil.morton@blackpool.gov.uk)

