Parshall Tree Care Experts Warns Pruning Red Oaks After April 15th Could Be a Death Sentence for Trees

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With spring yard work underway across Northern Michigan, Parshall Tree Care Experts ? a Traverse City-based certified arborist company serving the Grand Traverse region ? is urging homeowners and property managers to complete all oak tree pruning before April 15, 2026. That date marks the beginning of Michigan's high-risk oak wilt infection period, a seasonal window during which pruning wounds on oak trees can attract sap-feeding beetles that transmit a fatal fungal disease with a very high mortality rate in red oak species.

Oak wilt (Bretziella fagacearum) is a vascular wilt disease that blocks water and nutrient transport within infected trees, causing rapid decline and death. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, April 15 through July 15 is the highest-risk period for oak wilt transmission in Michigan, because nitidulid (sap-feeding) beetles are most active during this window and fresh fungal spore mats are widely available to infect exposed wounds. Red oak species ? among the most common trees in Northern Michigan's forests, parks, and residential landscapes ? are particularly vulnerable. Untreated infected red oaks typically die within a single growing season of exposure, according to Michigan State University Extension. The Michigan DNR has further warned that once oak wilt establishes itself through grafted root systems, it will continue to

spread and kill all connected red oaks in a neighborhood or forest if left unaddressed.

"This is one of the most time-sensitive tree health issues we see each spring," said the spokesperson for Parshall Tree Care Experts. "Most homeowners don't realize that a single pruning cut made after April 15th can attract beetles within minutes and result in the loss of a decades-old tree within months. The good news is that it is entirely preventable ? but only if action is taken now, before the deadline." Learn more at https://markets.financialcontent.com/presstelegram/article/pressadvantage-2025-10-30-parshall-tree-care-experts-launches-emergency-response-program-for-storm-damage-and-tree-emergencies.

Parshall Tree Care Experts has served residential and commercial clients in the Traverse City area since 2008, offering services that include ISA-certified arborist consultations, seasonal pruning, tree removal, and preventive disease treatment. The company's approach to oak wilt prevention includes targeted pruning schedules completed before the April 15 threshold, application of wound sealant on any unavoidable cuts, and propiconazole fungicide injection for high-value trees identified as at-risk.

The Michigan DNR recommends that any oak trees damaged during the April 15?July 15 period have wounds immediately covered with latex-based paint or tree wound paint to reduce beetle attraction. Homeowners who are uncertain whether their oak species falls within the high-risk red oak group are encouraged to consult a certified arborist for a professional assessment prior to undertaking any spring landscaping work.

The company's commitment to thoroughness and client communication has been recognized by area residents. Google Reviews Joyce Preibisch, a Traverse City-area client, recently shared her experience:

"Professional, caring, very astute for complex wants and needs. They will go out of their way to provide costumer's concerns are met and cared for. Thank you so much for the optimistic personalities and the hard work each individual put forth!"

As the April 15 deadline approaches, Parshall Tree Care Experts encourages property owners with oak trees to schedule an assessment promptly, as appointment availability is limited during the peak spring season. Industry data consistently identifies early scheduling and proper seasonal timing as the two most effective factors in preventing oak wilt infection and preserving long-term tree health.

About Parshall Tree Care Experts: Parshall Tree Care Experts is a Traverse City, Michigan-based tree care company offering ISA-certified arborist services to residential and commercial clients throughout the Grand Traverse region. Services include tree removal, seasonal pruning, storm damage response, and preventive

disease treatment. For scheduling and consultations, visit https://parshalltreecare.com.

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Parshall Pest Control Experts

Parshall Pest Control Experts of Traverse City, MI are expert professional pest control services in Grand Traverse County, MI. Specializing in complete home protection to eliminate biting pests for your custom insect protection plans.

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