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## Dutch elm disease on the march

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### DISEASE THREAT

#### Dutch elm disease on the march

Dutch Elm Disease has continued to spread across the Waipā District this summer.

Suspected cases of the deadly fungal disease have been identified in Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, and Ōhaupō. Two of the suspected cases involve trees on Waipā District Council land, the other is a single tree on the edge of the SH3 road reserve just north of Ōhaupō. Wood samples are being tested to confirm infections, and the trees will be removed. Arborist planner James Richardson said the disease was first detected in the district in early 2024, and efforts have focused on slowing its spread rather than eliminating it. "The increase in cases is not unexpected," Richardson said. "Dutch Elm Disease spreads fast and there is no cure or treatment" The disease is spread by elm bark beetles, connected root systems, movement of wood, and contaminated pruning tools.