

Province Wide Elm Tree Inventory Update 2017

The importance of a site-specific tree species inventory is it supplies the basic information necessary for an effective tree pest's prevention/management program. The information also identifies areas where more intensive monitoring and surveillance is necessary due to the number and/or condition of the tree species threatened by a pest. Knowing the value of each tree species is important in order to justify a prevention/management program.

In March 1999, an elm inventory was completed in Alberta cities, towns, villages and hamlets by the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED). Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), allocated funds to STOPDED to provide new and sustainable employment opportunities. Along with these funds, contributions were made by all the larger municipalities and Alberta Government towards the completion of the province wide elm inventory. This was a 2 year project.

In order to complete the inventory, the province was divided up into Dutch elm disease (DED) management regions. A region included a municipality that currently had a DED prevention program in place, and a number of municipalities in their buffer zone. Regions included Edmonton, Strathcona County, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Brooks. Each region was expected to hire STOPDED staff and complete the elm inventory in their buffer zone. Along with collecting data for the elm inventory, public awareness was also done.

The method used to access the value of the elm trees, the trunk formula method (TFM) was developed by the Council of Tree and Landscapes Appraisers (CTLA) and is used by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Since 1999, when the elms were first valued this method to access the value has increased. **The inventory has been updated in 2017 to reflect this increase.** This work was done by Mumby's Arboriculture Consulting.

The elm inventory indicated that up to 50% of the overall tree plantings in municipal landscapes are elms.

	Total elms	Total elm values
Communities excluding Cities	95,973	\$334,402,510.00
Cities – 17 in Alberta	193,903	\$643,743,938.00
Communities and Cities	289,876	\$978,149,448.00

Not all cities have updated their 1999 inventory elm numbers or values

It was found that there was a 35% increase in the municipal elm value over an eighteen year time period.

To find out the number of elm trees inventoried in a specific community, click onto the Cities, County (Co), Municipal District (MD) or Special Areas in which the community is located.

The updated inventory can be at www.stopded.org under "Province Wide Elm Inventory".