



***Bel Aire Tree Board***

# Pine Wilt Disease

Presentation  
for  
Bel Aire City Council  
November 2, 2010

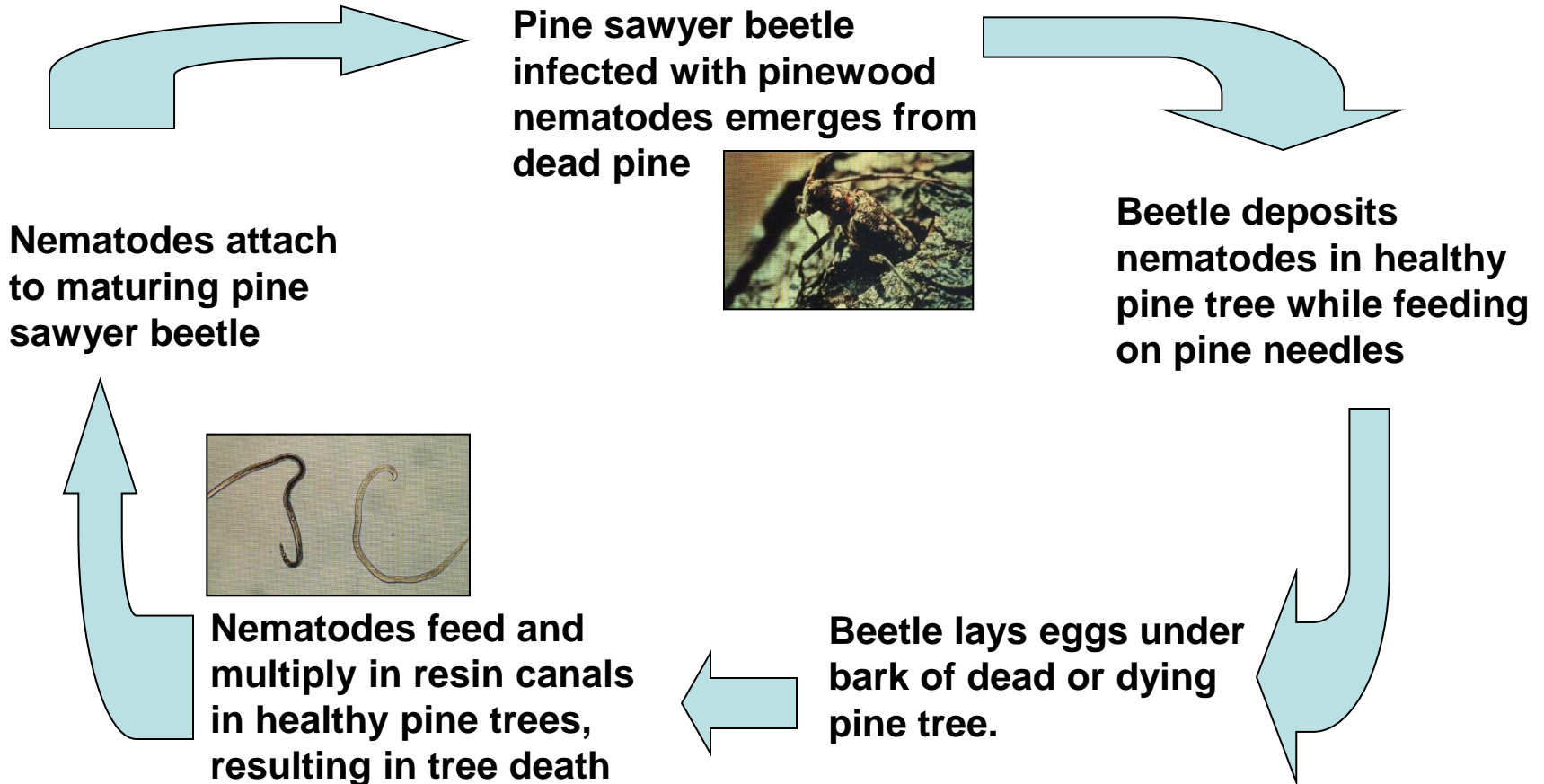


- Pine Wilt is a fatal disease of commonly planted pines in the Midwest.
- An informal survey by the Tree Board revealed there were approximately 150 dead or dying pine trees in Bel Aire.
- This presentation has been created to educate the Bel Aire City Council and the citizens of our community to make informed decisions about this fatal disease.

# Symptoms of Pine Wilt

- The needles initially turn grayish green, then tan-colored to brown.
- Trees die within a few weeks to a few months.
- Needles remain on dead tree for a year or more
- Typically affects trees more than 10 years old.

# Pine Wilt Life Cycle





Pine Wilt Disease, 30Oct2010

# Pine Wilt Prevention

- Cut down dead pine trees immediately or prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Sawyer beetle infected with nematodes emerge around this time
- Chip, bury, or burn trees
- Do not store cut trees to use as firewood
- Do not plant Scots or Austrian pines

# Commonly Asked Questions

- Are Scots pines the only pine trees that have been killed by pine wilt?
  - More than 90% of pine trees killed by pine wilt have been Scots pine. Others occasionally infected are Austrian, Jack, Mugho and red pines.

# Commonly Asked Questions

- I like having evergreens in my landscape. What types of evergreens are better suited for our area?
  - Southwestern White Pine, Cedars, Pinyon pine, and Juniper
  - For more information, contact:
    - John Pair Horticulture Center
    - Kansas Forest Service
    - Sedgwick County Extension Office

# Commonly Asked Questions

- Why should I cut down my dead pine and dispose of it by March 1<sup>st</sup>?
  - Pine sawyer beetles emerge when days begin to warm, as early as late February or early March.

# Commonly Asked Questions

- Won't using wood chips from a dead pine still have the beetles and/or nematodes?
  - While it is possible, it is unlikely. Use the following precautions when mulching:
    - Pile chips for at least 6 weeks; the heating and drying will kill both nematodes and beetles
    - Avoid piling chips against tree trunks when mulching
    - Don't mix the chips with soil when planting new trees

# Commonly Asked Questions

- Can I use the wood for firewood?
  - No, Pine sawyer beetles will emerge to infect healthy trees.

# Commonly Asked Questions

- Is there an insecticide that I can use to protect my healthy pine?
  - Work has been done to develop an effective insecticide; however, it is expensive and not guaranteed.

# References

- *South Central Preferred Trees* may be downloaded at:  
[www.kansasforests.org/pubs/community/index.shtml](http://www.kansasforests.org/pubs/community/index.shtml)
- *Sustainable Urban Landscapes PINE WILT A fatal disease of exotic pines in the Midwest* may be downloaded at:  
<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/plant2/MF2425.pdf>