Oak Wilt Management for Northern Forests

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Oak wilt causes significant losses of valuable red oak in forest stands. As this disease is expanding in range, the ability to both detect and recognize oak wilt is important to enable timely application of control measures. Oak wilt is not consistent in its behavior across the range of occurrence. There are known factors that affect disease severity and impact, including soil texture, stand composition, weather/climate, topography, disturbance/management activities, and prevalence/proximity of disease. Understanding these factors is critically important to choose a proper management response. Fortunately, the disease cycle offers several potential points of control, including prevention of overland spread by insect vectors and disruption of root graft spread. The choice of which management actions to apply depends on the resources/tools available, the management objectives, and the many factors that affect disease severity. The USDA Forest Service (FS) and other partners have collected much information about oak wilt over the decades, and changing technology provides new ways to share this information. The FS is currently creating a web application, using ESRI's StoryMap Journal© builder (Redlands, CA), that will contain information to help land managers understand their place in the "big picture" (20 state region, Region 9 of the USDA Forest Service) of oak wilt, and thus make better decisions on how to respond. The poster is a synopsis of information to be included in the StoryMap. The anticipated release date is summer 2021 (Fig. 1).

UPDATE

The StoryMap has been finalized and published:

https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9aec8460770d46aa9d073ae7ec2c783e

Suggested citation for the published StoryMap:

Haugen, Linda; Juzwik, Jennifer; Chavez, Quinn; Crocker, Susan. 2022. **Oak wilt in the northeastern and midwestern states.** Milwaukee, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Eastern Region. https://doi.org/10.2737/R9-2022-INT-OakWiltNEMW.

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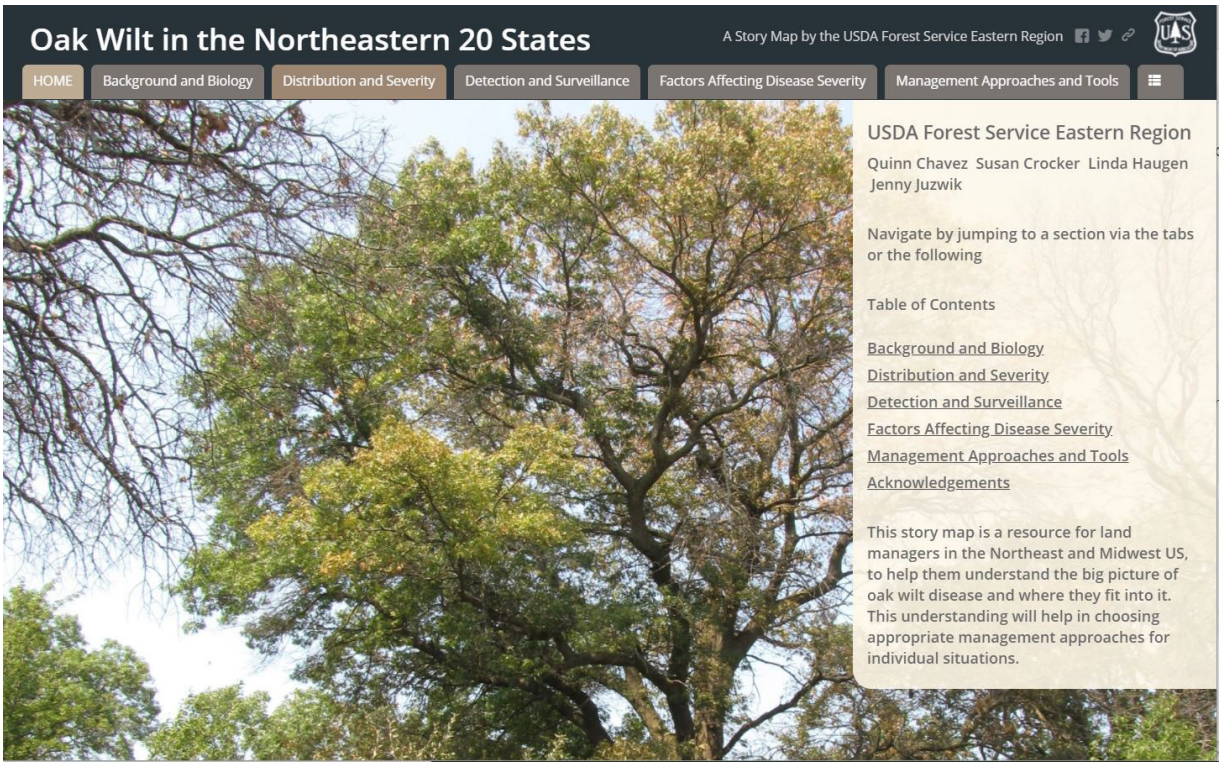

Figure 1.—Home screen of the StoryMap, "Oak Wilt in the Northeastern 20 States."

CITATION: Haugen, Linda; Juzwik, Jennifer. 2023. **Oak Wilt Management for Northern Forests.** In: Kern, Christel C.; Dickinson, Yvette L., eds. Proceedings of the first biennial Northern Hardwood Conference 2021: Bridging science and management for the future. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-211. Madison, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 229–230. https://doi.org/10.2737/NRS-GTR-P-211-paper48.