

American Elm Planting Project Ottawa National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

The Northern Research Station started an American Elm restoration project in 2003. Researchers screened elms for resistance or tolerance to the introduced Dutch Elm Disease (DED), a fungal pathogen that wiped out most of these trees in past years. Five trees were found with a suitable level of tolerance, and these lines have been cloned and trees produced for planting at various test sites.

The Eastern Region purchased 84 DED-tolerant elms and distributed them to ten National Forests. The Princeton line, originating from a tree in a cemetery in Princeton, New Jersey, is hardy to zone 3 and was selected for planting at two administrative sites on the Ottawa National Forest: the Kenton and Ontonagon Ranger District offices. Twelve 5-gallon container stock trees were received in late May and were planted soon after.

The trees are establishing fairly well, some better than others, depending on the soil and water regimes of their planting sites. The Eastern Region developed an interpretive sign about American elms, and copies will be installed at both of the Ottawa elm planting locations.



Figure 1. DED-tolerant American elm sapling after being unpacked from shipping box.



Figure 2. American elm saplings planted at Kenton Ranger District.

Year Awarded: 2010 (funds were awarded to Region 9 for this multi-forest project)

Project completion: 2010 for planting; signs will be placed in 2011

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures: \$1,896

12 elm saplings and shipping: \$400

Interpretive signs and bases \$1,076 (one for each of two planting sites)

Share of regional project coordination, sign design, etc. \$420

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Northern Research Station; Botany Shop Garden Center (MO); Genesis Graphics (MI).

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