SWINGLE
Est'd 1947
8585 East Warren Ave. • Denver, CO 8023 • (303) 337-6200 • www.swingletree.com

Tree, Lawn & Christmas Decor

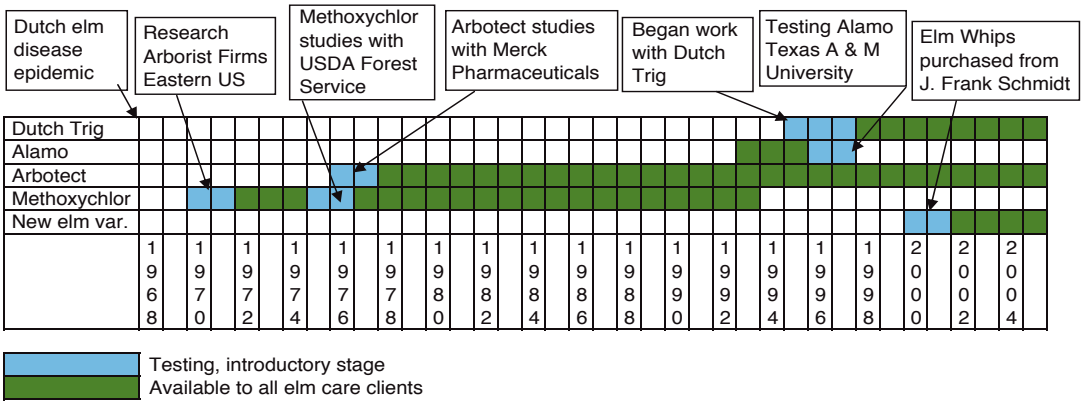
Celebrating a Century of American elms in Denver
2005 Elm Preservation Newsletter

Dear Client:

Since 1904, the American elm has been a vital part of the urban forest in Denver. Swingle is a vital element as we have cared for the elm community for the past 33 years. We care for more elms in Colorado than any other tree care company.

Frontline research and knowledge has always been the keystone of our Elm Preservation Program. We have more history, data, and research than anyone to back up our claims — what works and what does not. Your Swingle elm representative offers you the best information in the industry.

By 1920, every city had an Elm street and every street had an elm. Denver was no exception; Mayor Robert Speer began planting elms in 1904 along parkways and city streets. Dutch elm disease first came to town in 1948. Vigorous eradication banished Dutch elm disease from Denver until 1968. Beginning in 1968 and continuing into the early 70's, Denver saw its worst disease infestations. With Dutch elm disease sealing their fate, thousands of trees were removed. By 1970, Swingle sprung into action testing our new Dutch elm disease controls. **See Timeline**



1970 – Dave Dickson (Past President Swingle) built the original Dutch elm disease prevention program after visiting tree care companies on the East Coast.

1975 – With the USDA Forest Service, Swingle and several Eastern US tree care companies worked cooperatively to find out the longevity of Methoxychlor insecticide treatments.


STATE OF COLORADO
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
406 STATE SERVICES BUILDING
1525 SHERMAN STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80203
July 26, 1977

1976 & 1977 – With the knowledge of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, experimentally injected 15 trees with Arbotect fungicide for the cure of Dutch elm disease.

1995 – Engaged in talks with Heidemij in Holland discussing the bringing Dutch trig to market in the United States. Experimental treatments were completed in 1997, with full implementation in 1998.


heidemij realisatie

Swingle
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(409) 845-7311
FAX (409) 845-6483
July 23, 1996

1996 – Swingle shipped wood from several American elms injected with Alamo fungicide to the laboratories of Texas A & M University. The university could not recover the product from the elm wood. Swingle discontinued the use of Alamo.

2000 – Hybrid elms arrived from J. Frank Schmidt in Oregon, planted them here at Swingle for purchase by our Elm Preservation Customers.

Alamo vs Arbotect

Why did Swingle discontinue Alamo fungicide as a DED treatment? Over a four year period, Alamo failed to perform to our standards. The loss rate was three times that of Arbotect. We simply could not ethically continue to offer a product we knew was less effective. Our cooperative research with Texas A & M sealed our decision.

Fungicide Comparison

	Alamo	Arbotect
elms injected	1385	1340
elms diseased	82	26
loss rate	5.9%	1.9%

Losses are low in Denver but clouds are building on the horizon. In 2004, losses were at an all time low in Denver Metro, but higher in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs. A harbinger of disease activity in Denver is what happens in the mid-west. In a copyrighted story in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, a grim picture is painted in Minneapolis, Minnesota where 8,000 diseased elms were cut down in 2004. This is up significantly for 2003's losses of 3,800 trees.

How should you react?

1. Protect your elms by having them injected either with Arbotect every three years or Dutch trig every year.
2. Keep your elms pruned, removing deadwood.
3. Keep an eye out for diseased trees. Typically diseased trees become apparent beginning around June 15.
4. Encourage your neighbors to protect their American elms. Adjacent trees can be a source of disease that could impact your trees.

American elm — the Holy Grail of Urban trees.

Elms lost to Dutch elm disease thirty years ago were being replaced with ash, honey locusts, lindens and maples. What we have found is that these trees have their problems too. Consider, in Michigan, over 7 million ash trees have been destroyed in the war against the Emerald ash borer. The time is right for hybrid elms.

We have followed the new varieties and planted those that grow best in Denver. We have been in contact with is the Morton Arboretum outside of Chicago. Dr. George Ware, Botanist with the arboretum has planted over seventy-five different varieties at the Morton Arboretum. We are growing two of those varieties at Swingle — Accolade and Triumph and they should be ready exclusively for our Elm Preservation Program customers in 2006.

Knowing all this, why would you trust your elms to anyone else?

Sincerely,

Steven D Geist

Celebrating 33 years
Of elm preservation.

SWINGLE
PRESERVING YOUR PRECIOUS ELMS

Steven D. Geist
Elm Preservation Coordinator