

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Department of Natural Resources

## Division of Forests and Parks

### 15 Ashburton Place, Boston 8

ANNUAL REPORT OF OPERATION OF THE REMOVAL CREW, WORKING OUT OF STOW SERVICE BUILDING

A complete and accurate record of work performed for the calendar year 1956 by the two removal crews at Stow is hereby presented to the Commissioner, and available to heads of such state or municipal agencies interested in the actual possibility of controlling Dutch elm disease.

In a study of this report it must be kept in mind that, without tree climbers, our operations are confined mostly to those elms which can be free-fall, cut to handling length on the ground and loading same onto municipal trucks for removal to dumps. In the many cases where an elm must first have the top removed piece by piece, due to utility wires through the tree or residences under the tree, the topping must first be completed by the town or the owner. If this has not been done at the time of our arrival state assistance is delayed and the cost increased, - a situation which has existed for nine years. In spite of this handicap the following statements are presented:

#### 1 - Removals, by months, of trees over 7 inches, in diameter,

Month	No. of Working Days	Days worked, removal	No. trees removed
January	21	11	89
February	20	16	110
March	22	13	43
April	20	3	10
May	22	2	3
June	21	5	2
July	. 21	7	33
August	23	6	36
September	20	13	69
October	22	19	160
November	20	17	193
December	20	15	174
Totals	252	127	922
	Add, trees unde	er 7 inch diameter -	11
	Total No	trees removed -	933

Average work days per month - 21

Actual time on removal work - 6 months, 1 day

Average number of men - 10

Average number of trees removed per working day - 7 1/3

#### 2 - Removal costs, state wages:

Month	No. Hours	Cost	No. Trees	Dia. inches
January	856	\$ 1,789.98	89	1,832
February	1,256	2,591.09	110	2,291
March	1,032	2,069.55	43	1,211
April	232	423.87	10	397
May	64	138.93	3	108
June	240	545.25	2	98
July	264	525.00	33	467
August	296	604.12	36	533
September	920	1,901.61	69	1,277
October	1,448	3,118.23	160	3,233
November	1,496	2,907.59	193	3,466
December	1,224	2,709.77	174	3,660
A	ddition for tree	es under 7 inches	11	
Totals	9,328	19,324.99	933	18,573
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Average Cost per tree - \$20.71

Average cost per diameter inch \$ 1.04

#### 3 - Number of trees in each diameter size:

6"-11, 7"-88, 8"-104, 9"-12, 10"-126, 12"-63, 13"-3, 14"-44, 15"-45, 16"-33, 17"-1, 18"-72, 19"-3, 20"-42, 21"-2, 22"-11, 23"-1, 24"-44, 25"-5, 26"-3, 27"-1, 28"-21, 30"-63, 32"-18, 33"-1, 34"-5, 35"-5, 36"-35, 37"-1, 38"-13, 39"-2, 40"-25, 42"-6, 44"-1, 46"-1, 48"-20, 49"-1, 50"-5, 51"-1, 52"-2, 55"-2, 56"-1, 57"-1, 58"-1, 60"-4, 63"-1, 65"-1, 72"-2, 76"-1, 109"-1. 933 trees, totalling 18,573 diameter inches

With two foreman, eight laborers, and only two trucks fully equipped for this type of work we removed 933 trees in six months. On a yearly basis we can assume that this crew could remove approximately 2,000 trees, or over one-fifth of all the elms condemned at the laboratory for the entire year.

Admittedly, the laboratory report does not present the actual condition, because some 60 towns failed to even submit samples during the year and therefor have no knowledge of the infestation within their borders. Such neglect also defeats all protective measures and expenditures by their neighbor towns.

The continuing records in such areas as annually cooperate fully with the recommended program, and with this Bureau, indicate that Dutch elm disease could be controlled, even at this late date when, in some areas, total neglect of the subject has left a back-log of unknown wreckage.

Were this Bureau to have properly classified employees and additional aquipment to at least double its present capacity we are convinced that further progress of the disease could be brought to a halt, at a cost much lower than will automatically result in a few years of further neglect, - adequate personnel and equipment operating under an efficient system is the answer. With increased facilities the Bureau could not only increase its present assistance to cooperating areas but also compel activity to some degree in the negligent towns.

4 - Further activities of the Removal Crews.

On the basis of "assistance to towns" our removal crew were occupied on this one phase for half the year. However, our assistance is given in other forms and to agencies other than towns. The following items must therefor be included as part of this report:

A - Removal Assistance to agencies -

Agency	No. Men	No. Hours	Cost	No. Trees	Dia Inches
Metropolitan District Commission	8	440	883.80	61	890
Fernald School	5	80	157.04	12	248

Agency	No. Men	No. Hours	Cost	No. Trees	Dia. Inches	
Boston State Hospital		96	195.00	10	130	
Metropolitan State Hospital	10	272	477.70	16	264	
Bradley Palmer State Park	8	96	209.64	10	168	
Clinton Nursery	4	32	65.85		108	

B - Sampling for other agencies -

Agency	No. Men	No. Days	Cost	No. Samples
Metropolitan District Commission	8	92	639.71	81
Boston State Hospital	4	2	96.69	11
Metropolitan State Hospital	4	2	118.07	8
Fernald School			15.30	8
Bradley Palmer State Park		1 15 = 15 = 15 = 15 = 15 = 15 = 15 = 15	68.10	118 116

#### C - Instruction on sampling procedure to -

- 18 Cities and towns
- 41 Working days involved
- \$2,237.08 Total Bureau cost
- 358 samples collected

#### D - Mixing Plant and Spray operations,

The DDT mixing plant was assembled and disassembled, 8 men for 15 days, at a cost of \$1,474.23

Actual mixing took place for 27 days, by 6 men, at a cost of \$27,803.65 to furnish 83,136 gallons of finished product.

These figures do not include any costs of winter overhaul and repair to equipment, not cost of replacement parts to piping, pumps, meters, etc.

#### E - Miscellaneous operations -

- 1 Special spraying, Harold Parker State Forest for greenhead flies, 3 men, truck and hydraulic sprayer cost of \$90.61
- 2 Special spraying for enciphalitus program, in 14 areas, involving 10 men, 3 trucks, 3 pickups and 3 hydraulic sprayers for 8 days, during

which a total of 34,450 gallons of insecticide were applied. Bureau cost, not including supervision, was \$1,953.88.

3 - Loan of state-owned hydraulic sprayers and mist blowers to 6 towns for a total of 53 days, at an estimated loan-value of \$848.00.

#### SUMMARY:

Even a casual study of the facts herein must recognize the absolute necessity of three corrective steps, each of mandatory and state-wide importance.

- l Furnish the Bureau of Insect Pest Control sufficient personnel and adequate equipment which will guarantee at least double its present capabilities,
- 2 Oblige every state agency to appropriate sufficient funds to anable semi-cooperation with control programs, or, to fully compensate this Bureau for the work it performs on lands under the jurisdiction of said agency,
- 3 Enforce on every city or town compliance with the statutory requirements of the control program which applies to the entire state and which should not be nullified by neglect on the part of a few areas.

If the record accomplished by our removal crew in 37 towns as herein presented, is acceptable as a worthy expenditure of state funds then it must also be commendable on a state-wide recommendation. What reason can be given that warrants our continuance in one-tenth of the state a program which affects equally this entire commonwealth.