

FIGHT AGAINST DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN FULL SWING IN
THREE STATES

The enlarged Federal campaign to save the American elm from the fate of the American chestnut is now in full swing against the Dutch elm disease. The war is being waged over 5,000 square miles in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; all within a radius of 50 miles of the port of New York City where the disease entered this country. Nearly 7,700 Dutch elm disease trees and 30,000 dead and dying or unsanitary elms have been chopped down and promptly burned. The sanitation program was made possible by an allocation of funds from the Public Works Administration and of men from the Civilian Conservation Corps. A total of 142 crews, 68 in New York, 44 in New Jersey, and 30 in Connecticut, are now attacking the 175,000 dead and dying elms which may be possible sources of the disease as well as breeding places for insect carriers of the disease.

REVISED QUARANTINE EXCLUDES ALL
ELM LOGS FROM EUROPE

A revision of the Dutch Elm Disease Quarantine No. 70, announced by the Secretary of Agriculture today, and effective January 1, 1935, closes the door still more tightly against further introduction of this enemy of the American elm trees by entirely prohibiting the importation from Europe of all logs of elm and its relatives.

As originally drawn, this quarantine permitted the entry from Europe of elm burl logs, used for making a type of furniture veneer, provided the logs were free from all bark and wood-infesting insects at the time of arrival and that they were given a prescribed hot-water treatment before they were released. While comparatively few importations of these burl logs have been made since the quarantine became effective on October 21, 1933, most of these shipments have come with the bark incompletely removed and in some cases the adhering remnants of bark have been found to be infested by living adults and larvae of scolytid beetles, known to have a part in spreading the fungus causing the Dutch elm disease.

In view of the efforts now under way to check local outbreaks of the Dutch elm disease in this country, quarantine officials believe no chance should be taken which would result either in further introduction of the causal fungus or in the equally undesirable establishment here of its bark-beetle carriers. And since the elm burl logs concerned contain so many deep fissures and crevices in their gnarled and knotty surfaces, it is considered hopeless to expect a type of bark removal before shipment so complete and thorough as to eliminate the possibility of the logs harboring these dangerous insects. Because of this situation quarantine authorities are convinced that complete exclusion of these elm veneer logs from Europe is the only safe course to adopt.