



July 2023

Trees surveyed to date: 9,152 (95% are trees in Washington County)

of trees with confirmed EAB presence: 53

In this issue:

- *Forest Grove is now ringed by EAB traps*
- *State grant paid for 60 ash tree removals in Forest Grove*
- *Biocontrol releases continue*
- *New article by Mike Conroy of TSWCD discusses post-EAB riparian restoration*
- *Oregon Country Fair gets out Don't Move Firewood message*
- *Federal gov't makes \$75 million available for EAB work*

Ring of EAB traps completed around Forest Grove

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) working with Metro, Clean Water Services, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and other local landowners has completed a ring of traps encircling Forest Grove. The traps are 122 Oregon ash trees that have been girdled so they release stress chemicals that attract nearby EAB adults. The trap trees are all located within a few miles of the original detection site inside Forest Grove. Some 184 other ash trees around the trap trees are being trunk injected with insecticide to prevent them from being infested and to ensure any EAB eggs laid on the trees near the trap trees do not survive to adulthood.

This fall, staff will return to remove the trap trees and peel back bark to look for any EAB larvae. The effort will give officials a better idea of how far EAB is spreading and how fast. An added benefit is that it should help slow EAB's spread, since any eggs laid on the trap trees that turn into larvae will be destroyed when the bark is peeled back this fall.



ODF reports that so far EAB has not shown up in any of 126 other traps laid by ODF, and local forest landowners, APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) or local soil and water conservation districts.

To report a suspected EAB sighting in Oregon or for news releases and other EAB information, go to the Oregon Invasive Species Council's website at OregonEAB.com

Above: Jordon Bartosz from ODA finishes girdling one of 122 Oregon ash trees being used to trap any EABs that might be spreading out from Forest Grove.

Biocontrol releases continue in Washington County

Every week this summer ODA has been releasing natural enemies of EAB in wetlands around Forest Grove and the Gales Creek area. Three species of tiny, stingless wasps from Asia are used. Although they won't be able to wipe out EAB, in eastern states where they have been released they have been shown to significantly reduce numbers of EAB. They are harmless to people, pets and other wildlife. To date, in Washington County releases have numbered:

- *Oobius agrili*- 2,300
- *Spathius galinae* - 936
- *Tetrastichus planipennis* - 1,800



The parasitoids were produced and supplied from, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, MI. For parasitoid information please call 866-322-4512

Ash tree removals climb to 60 in Forest Grove

Sixty ash trees within a mile of the first site where emerald ash borers were detected in Forest Grove were felled, chipped, and disposed of in May and June thanks to funds the Oregon State Emergency Board earmarked to help the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture with EAB response. The funds expired June 30.

ODA oversaw the removals, which will help to reduce the number of EAB adults that are emerging and able to fly out and infest new trees. The grants allowed ODA to remove ash trees at no cost to property owners. Many trees known to be infested were removed as well as others close by at high risk for infestation.

Article explores how to restore forest function in riparian areas after EAB

In a new article in the summer issue of the online publication [Treeline](#), Habitat Conservation Specialist Mike Conroy of Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District explores questions related to preserving riparian function in areas likely to be altered by EAB killing Oregon ash trees. It's anticipated that forest cover throughout lower elevations of the Tualatin Valley and beyond will be highly impacted in coming years by this pest. Scroll near the bottom to see Conroy's article.

Oregon Country Fair in Eugene trumpets Don't Move Firewood message

The annual Oregon Country Fair draws thousands of people to western Lane County to celebrate nature with music, art, costumes and dance. The fair is held in a wooded glade with lots of mature Oregon ash trees. With people coming from all over for the three-day event, fair organizers worked with state EAB staff to create an educational poster explaining why not moving firewood but buying it close to where it will be burned can help prevent the spread of EAB and other potential tree-killing pests. These pests hitch rides inside firewood, spreading far faster than they could naturally. To learn more about the importance of not moving firewood, visit <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>



Deadline approaching – Funding suggestions due by Aug. 9 to receive 2024 Plant Protection Act (PPA) Section 7721 Funds

APHIS is providing \$75 million in PPA 7721 FY 2024 funding to safeguard against, detect, and respond to invasive plant pests and diseases. Non-profit organizations, universities, tribes, industry partners, and government agencies are eligible and have until Aug. 9 to submit funding suggestions. **Proposals for EAB-related work must align with one of the six PPA 7721 Goal Areas to be considered;** see the 2024 PPA 7721 [Implementation Plan](#) for more information regarding Goal Areas. Activities involving early detection surveys exclusively targeting EAB, tree removal and disposal, and tree injection are not eligible for PPA funding. EAB-related activities that may get funding include education and outreach, readiness planning, or insect pest detection surveys that include targets listed on the National Priority Pest List in addition to EAB.

All proposals must be submitted by the Aug. 9 deadline via the ServiceNow platform to be considered. Access to ServiceNow requires a password requested from APHIS. More information is available on the [PPA 7721 website](#). Please contact the APHIS Pest Survey Specialist for Oregon (mariah.davis@usda.gov) to request access to the ServiceNow platform.

Publications

Alternatives to Ash in Western Oregon: With a Critical Tree Under Threat, These Options Can Help Fill Habitat Niche. G. Kral, and D.C. Shaw. 2023. OSU Extension EM 9396. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9396>

Oregon Ash: Insects, Pathogens and Tree Health by Oregon State University Extension (also available in Spanish at this same website) <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/em-9380>

Wood Decay Fungi Associated with Galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer by the University of Minnesota and Uruguay's *Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria* [Forests | Free Full-Text | Wood Decay Fungi Associated with Galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer \(mdpi.com\)](#)

Useful links for more information

EAB monitoring guidance
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/eab-monitoring-guidance.pdf>

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
<https://www.oda.direct/EAB>

Oregon Dept. of Forestry
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthealth.aspx>

OSU Extension
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/emerald-ash-borer-resources>

USFS Forest Health Protection
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/home/?cid=fseprd1046323>