

December 2024

Square miles known to be infested with EAB:

Forest Grove – 10.4 Butte Creek/Pudding River – 23.6

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*This monthly newsletter gives updates and resources on emerging threats to the health of Oregon's trees in natural and managed landscapes. It is published by the Oregon Department of Forestry in collaboration with other state, regional, federal, Tribal, and local agencies and organizations. To subscribe, email [jim.gersbach@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:jim.gersbach@odf.oregon.gov)*

In this issue:

- New guidelines on MOB management are now available
- Northern California researchers share news about MOB in their state
- Portland hires specialist to help City respond to tree pests and pathogens
- ODA is checking for EAB larvae in felled sentinel and trap trees around Forest Grove
- ODF to train its Forest Grove unit staff on EAB in mid-December

## ODA issues new guidelines on MOB management for landowners



Above: Dark-colored fungus fills tunnels dug by Mediterranean oak borer. The fungus is causing a fatal wilting disease in Oregon white oak and in some California oaks.

Oregon and California are the first states known to be infested with Mediterranean oak borer (*Xyleborus monographus*).

That newness is one reason many recommendations for how to respond are still quite preliminary, according to ODA Entomologist Max Ragozzino. He cautions that research into what methods might be effective at preventing or stopping infestation with the ambrosia beetle and the disease-causing fungus it carries is still underway.

Read the [recommendations](#).

## Anya Moucha joins Portland as its new tree pests and pathogens expert

Portland Urban Forestry welcomed Anya Moucha as the new Forest Pests and Pathogens Coordinator in September 2024. In her role, Anya will guide the city's response to forest health threats, with an initial focus on emerald ash borer.



A Certified Arborist, Anya spent the last five years as a landscape designer and project manager, working on public parks and trails throughout the country. She holds a Master's of Landscape Architecture and a Bachelor's in Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy from the University of Minnesota. In addition to EAB, Anya will support the City's response to Mediterranean oak borer and other forest pests.

Ash trees play a critical role in Portland's urban forest. When EAB reaches the city, it is expected to have significant impacts. Portland is home to an estimated 95,000 ash trees, including 9,724 in the public right-of-way. The City is also closely monitoring the roughly 8,000 acres of natural

areas, which contain an estimated 72% of Portland's ash trees. Fortunately, the City of Portland has been proactively preparing for emerald ash borer's arrival for several years. Efforts include developing a draft EAB Response Plan, which will soon be finalized, launching a pilot program to treat ash trees in developed parks, and providing specialized training to City staff.

If you'd like to connect with Anya, you can reach her at [anya.moucha@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:anya.moucha@portlandoregon.gov).

## **ODA is checking felled trap and sentry trees for EAB larvae**

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture is continuing to debark in Forest Grove over 200 ash trees felled this fall that had served as trap and sentry trees. The debarking will reveal how many contain larvae of emerald ash borer.

"The trees from heavily infested areas we hope will serve as population sinks," says Emily Perkins, who is the EAB Coordinator for ODA. "Any larvae from eggs laid on these trees are being removed from the population, which we hope puts a dent in the rise in numbers of EAB in the area."

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry, ODA, Metro and Clean Water Services are all providing funding for the trap-tree effort.

## **ODF field staff in Forest Grove to get grounding in EAB info**

Staff at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Forest Grove office are on the front lines of the EAB outbreak in the state. To help them identify EAB signs and symptoms and better assist forest landowners with questions, the agency's Urban and Community Forestry program staff in December will be sharing what is known about the pest. They'll also help staff address common questions about the speed and extent of ash tree deaths, rules around harvesting ash trees and what can be done with the wood, possible treatments, and alternative species for replanting in natural areas.

## Publications

*Modelling impacts to water quality in salmonid-bearing waterways following the introduction of emerald ash borer in the Pacific Northwest, USA.* Maze, D., Bond, J. & Mattsson, M. *Biol Invasions* (2024).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03340-3>

*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 \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/forests/Free-Full-Text/Wood-Decay-Fungi-Associated-with-Galleries-of-the-Emerald-Ash-Borer)

## Useful links for more information

Mediterranean oak borer fact sheet

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/fact-sheet-mediterranean-oak-borer.pdf>

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>

Emerald Ash Borer Information Network, a collaborative effort by the USDA Forest Service and Michigan State University

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

USFS Forest Health Protection

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/index.shtml>