

February 2026

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

In this issue:

- *ODF to hold tree injection workshop in Hillsboro to protect ash trees from EAB*
- *Forest health symposium to be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis March 18*
- *High school in Beaverton works with City, ODF on tree inventory of schoolgrounds*
- *Marion SWCD to host virtual talk March 6 on release of biological agents to control EAB*
- *Tree of heaven may give spotted lanternflies a way to stave off bird predation*
- *National Invasive Species Awareness Week runs Feb. 23 to 27 this year*
- *Tree planting in memory of Karen Ripley is set for Saturday, Feb. 14 in Washington County*

ODF works with City of Hillsboro to hold tree injection workshop March 13

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry program and the City of Hillsboro Public Works are hosting a tree-injection workshop on Friday, March 13th at Hidden Creek Community Center in Hillsboro. This is an opportunity for arborists, pesticide applicators, and public works employees to learn about applying pesticides through trunk injection and about different injection equipment options.



The workshop will feature presentations from ODF, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, and equipment and pesticide manufacturers on:

- pesticide licenses and categories
- best management practices from the ISA
- demonstrations from two leading equipment manufacturers

ODF has also secured ISA and ODA continuing education

credits (CEUs) for those attending the workshop. Attendees can receive 4.5 International Society of Arboriculture CEUs (A,M,Bp) and CEU's for Pesticide Credits from ODA.

For more information or to register visit

<https://pnwisa.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2036458&group=>

OSU holds forest health symposium in Corvallis on March 18

Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State serves as a vital forum for researchers, practitioners, and industry experts to discuss the current condition and future of our region's forests.

This 2026 hybrid conference will provide a comprehensive update on the trends shaping our ecosystem. Sessions will cover critical topics such as the ongoing effects of the 2021 Heat Dome, wildfire resilience, emerging insect outbreaks, and the latest strategies for disease management.

This conference has been approved for 7 Category 1 Society of American Foresters credits and 8 Oregon Professional Logger maintenance credits.

Tickets cost \$85 for in-person (\$50 for students). Virtual attendance is \$35. Register [here](#).

A number of speakers will be from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, and the USDA Forest Service. They'll be giving updates on emerald ash borer, Mediterranean oak borer, sudden oak death among others issues impacting tree health. Find the agenda with complete speaker information and topics [here](#).

Westview High School in Beaverton is inventorying its schoolground trees with help from ODF and City of Beaverton, helping better plan for EAB

Beaverton School District (BSD) educators and Westview High School staff are collaborating with the City of Beaverton and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to advance urban forestry through a comprehensive tree inventory initiative. This project leverages TreePlotter, a cutting-edge web-based tool designed to manage and analyze tree data, fostering environmental stewardship and community engagement. ODF provides access to TreePlotter inventory software at no charge to communities. As more and more communities participate, this creates a statewide urban tree inventory.

TreePlotter provides an efficient platform for tracking tree species, health, and location. BSD staff, students, and partners now have access to this system, enabling real-time updates and data-driven decision-making. The City of Beaverton has already integrated its existing street tree inventory into TreePlotter and will continue to update every 4 years.

This inventory serves as a vital resource for monitoring tree health, managing pests like Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and supporting grant applications. It also plays a key role in achieving recognitions such as Tree City USA, Tree Cities of the World, and other urban forestry accreditations.

Marion SWCD to host virtual talk March 6 about biological control of EAB

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a virtual talk about the release in Oregon of biological agents to control emerald ash borer. The talk is co-presented by Colin Park from USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service PPQ and Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Bio-control Entomologist Max Ragozzino, who has been working closely with the federal agency to obtain parasitoid wasps that attack EAB larvae or their eggs.

Date: **Friday, March 6**

Time: **Noon to 1 p.m.**

Link to attend:

<https://www.marionswcd.net/event/first-friday-biological-control-of-emerald-ash-borer-eab/>

Spotted lanternflies may become less appetizing to birds when they feed on tree of heaven

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive pest that has been spreading west from Pennsylvania since it was first detected in 2014. It is a voracious feeder on a wide number of ornamental and fruit trees as well as agricultural crops, especially grapes.

Scientists have been interested in finding out if birds and other predators might be able to help control spotted lanternfly numbers. While birds are documented as preying on the insect, [new research](#) done by researchers at Pennsylvania State University and published last fall in the *Journal of Chemical Ecology* suggests the pest has a trick up its sleeve to protect itself from birds.

Spotted lanternflies prefer to feed on tree of heaven when they can. We now know why that may be. Quassinoid compounds in tree of heaven make their way into the tissues of spotted lanternfly when they feed on the tree, itself an invasive species from Asia. These compounds appear to make spotted lanternflies less appetizing to birds. In controlled studies birds refrained from feeding to their nestlings spotted lanternflies with documented quassinoid compounds in them compared to those that had not fed on tree of heaven.



Photo credit: *Spotted lanternfly immature stage with red coloration.* Photo credit: Elizabeth McCarty, University of Georgia.



One potential implication of this research is that removing tree of heaven might reduce spotted lanternflies' ability to evade bird predation by reducing the insect's access to quassinoid compounds.

Photo at left: Tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima) is a preferred host of spotted lanternfly (SLF), an invasive leafhopper from Asia. When SLF feed on the leaves of tree of heaven, they make themselves unappetizing to birds. Research now shows birds then decline to feed SLF to their nestlings, which may reduce predation.

Helpful publications about spotted lanternfly (SLF), which is not yet established in Oregon, are below:

ODF SLF FAQ <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/documents/spotted-lanternfly-faq.pdf>

SLF Forest Facts - <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/documents/forestbenefits/fact-sheet-spotted-lanternfly.pdf>

National Invasive Species Awareness Week starts on Feb. 23

[National Invasive Species Awareness Week](#) Feb. 23-27 is a great time to message to your local audience about the risk of introducing and spreading harmful non-native species. Oregon has a large number of serious pest species ranging from spiny gorse on the south coast to emerald ash borer, Mediterranean oak borer, and tree of heaven. The latter has escaped cities and is relentlessly colonizing areas along the Columbia Gorge at the expense of native vegetation. A key way people can help is to only buy or cut firewood within 10 miles of where they plan to burn it. You can access free Don't Move Firewood campaign materials [here](#).

Karen Ripley to be remembered with tree planting on Valentine's Day

Colleagues and friends of the late USDA Forest Service Entomologist Karen Ripley, who died last year, are invited by Friends of Trees to a native plant planting in her memory. The planting will take place from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14th. It will be part of a Friends of Trees planting in partnership with Clean Water Services. The planting will be in the Balm Grove area a few miles northwest of Forest Grove in Washington County. Please register for the planting with [Friends of Trees](#).

Publications

- **Sequestration of plant defenses by spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) and effects on avian predators.** by Anne E. Johnson, Allison Cornell, Fang Zhu, Ashley E. Shay, Gabrielle Davis and Kelli Hoover. Pennsylvania State University. *Journal of Chemical Ecology* Oct. 23, 2025. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10886-025-01647-6>
- **A Valley Without Ash: Exploring Strategies for Forested Wetland Restoration Post Emerald Ash Borer Invasion in the Willamette Valley, Oregon** by Hull, Chloe (2024). OSU. https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_projects/3j333b36w
- **Genomics-Driven Monitoring of *Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon Ash) to Inform Conservation and EAB-Resistance Breeding'** by Melton, A.E., Faske, T.M., Sniezko, R.A., Thibault, T., Williams, W., Parchman, T. and Hamilton, J.A. (2025), *Molecular Ecology* e17640. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.17640>
- **Monitoring Oregon ash forests in the face of the emerald ash borer: A guide for small woodland owners and managers**
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9451-monitoring-oregon-ash-forests-face-emerald-ash-borer>
- **Larval development and parasitism of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) and European olive (*Olea europaea*): implications for the West Coast invasion**
[Journal of Economic Entomology | Oxford Academic](#)
- **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 \(mdpi.com\)](#)

Useful links for more information

Past *Oregon Tree Health Threats Bulletins* (2023 to present)
<https://oregon-eab-geo.hub.arcgis.com/pages/latest-news>

Roundup of Oregon-specific EAB information including where to report new EAB sightings
www.OregonEAB.com

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

Map to find where EAB is currently confirmed in Oregon
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9f29b1860cb04d36ad71b122148277f3>

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

USFS Forest Health Protection
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/index.shtml>