

OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



February 2024

Square miles known to be infested with EAB: 10.4

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 with the collaboration of other state, regional, federal, Tribal, and local agencies and organizations. To subscribe, email jim.gersbach@odf.oregon.gov

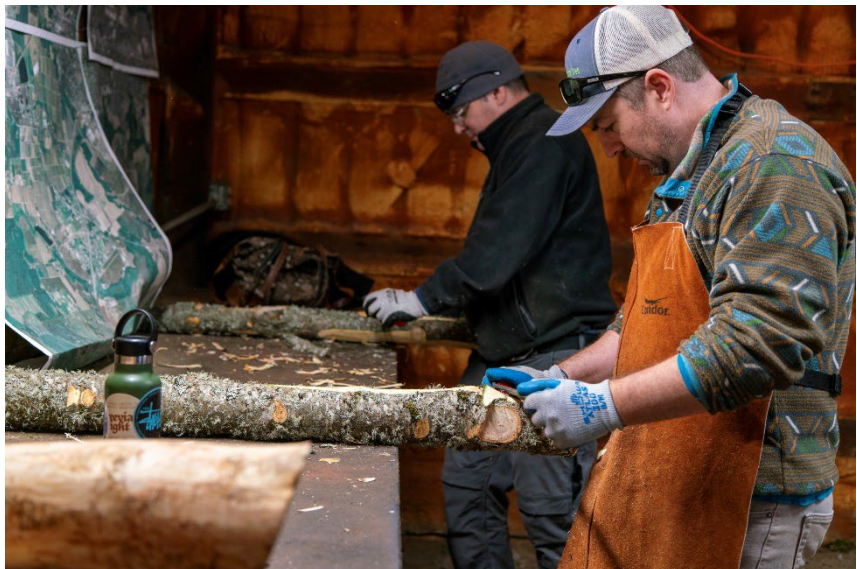
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New article shows how trap trees are used to detect EAB spread

Over the past few months, a coalition of organizations that includes [Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District \(TSWCD\)](#), [Clean Water Services \(CWS\)](#), [Metro](#), [Oregon Department of Agriculture \(ODA\)](#), and [Oregon Department of Forestry \(ODF\)](#) worked in Oregon's Washington County to study and reduce the spread of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB).

Partners use a system called slow ash mortality (SLAM), which centers around creating and felling trap trees. A trap tree is made by removing a section of bark around a tree's middle (a process called "girdling"). After girdling, the tree slowly dies and releases a volatile organic compound to which female EAB are attracted. Nearby EAB will lay their eggs in the dying tree. After infestation over the



summer, partners cut down the trap trees in the fall, stripping the bark and looking for larvae. This winter ODA will burn the downed wood in its new air curtain incinerator close to Forest Grove to prevent any larvae that are present from emerging this summer.

This joint effort is the first of its kind to take place where EAB has not yet become widespread. Partners will use the data they collected to give local land managers information on where and how fast EAB is spreading so they can better prepare. You can see the entire process in photos accompanying the article on SLAM posted online by [Tree For All](#).

When clearing storm-downed wood, remember to keep it in the local area

Trees that fell during recent winter storms may contain invasive, tree-killing insects. These pests can spread quickly when wood is transported to new places. Pests such as the [emerald ash borer \(EAB\)](#), a beetle that infests and kills ash trees, can survive in wood for months even in very cold temperatures. You can protect our trees from EAB and other tree-killing pests like Mediterranean oak borer by not moving firewood more than 30 miles from where it was cut.



To slow the spread of the EAB, an Oregon Department of Agriculture [quarantine](#) prohibits the movement of all ash (*Fraxinus* species), white fringe, and olive tree materials, including firewood, out of Washington County. Other tree-killing pests, such as the recently arrived Mediterranean oak borer, can also be spread in firewood. Learn more at the following sites:

[Home - Don't Move Firewood \(donthmovfirewood.org\)](http://donthmovfirewood.org)

[EAB Quarantine - Oregon Department of Agriculture](#)

[Emerald Ash Borer \(*Agrilus Planipennis*\) - Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District \(tualatinswcd.org\)](http://tualatinswcd.org)

[List of Wood Disposal Resources - Oregon Department of Agriculture](#)

[Find an arborist](#)

ODF to help fund removal and replanting of EAB-infested ash trees

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry is providing funding to the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture that will allow it to hire contractors to remove trees in the Forest Grove area known to be heavily infested with EAB. The removals will take place on 36 different properties on the south side of Forest Grove. About five dozen trees will be cut. The removals are planned to occur this winter and spring before the emergence of adult EABs. The downed trees will then be burned nearby in the ODA's new air curtain incinerator. This will help reduce the overall numbers of EAB that take flight next summer, hopefully slowing the spread of the insect to surrounding areas. The grant will allow the removals to be done at no cost to landowners, and will include funds to plant this fall with replacement trees that do not get infested and killed by EAB.

Once trees are leafed out this spring, ODA will be able to use the grant money to see if any ash trees in heavily infested areas might be good candidates for insecticide treatments to keep them from becoming infested, or to stop infestations that have started but not yet caused too much damage. ODF obtained the funds from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the removals and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for the replantings. Both sets of funds came to ODF through the federal USDA Forest Service.

Researchers propose testing for resistance to EAB in Oregon ash

In the eastern U.S., there appears to be a low level of genetic resistance to EAB in the species tested. Here in the Northwest, researchers are interested in knowing if they can find useful levels of genetic resistance in Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). To that end, federal researchers, including Richard Sniezko, PhD, with the USDA Forest Service's Dorena Genetic Resource Center in Cottage Grove, are proposing to develop a large-scale testing and breeding program for EAB resistance in Oregon ash. If resistant Oregon ash trees are found, Sniezko hopes they can be propagated and eventually planted back into their natural habitats, especially in Pacific Northwest streamside and wetland ecosystems.

Collaborators are needed for seed collections and to provide sites for the genetic test plantings. Collaborators can be state and federal agencies, tribal and municipal governments, private companies, and non-governmental organizations. Written agreements will be developed as needed to allow these collaborations to succeed. The steering committee will investigate sources of funding for this work. For more information about this research proposal, visit [Finding genetic resistance to emerald ash borer | PNWTIRC \(oregonstate.edu\)](#) If you have interest in the proposal or know funding sources, contact Richard Sniezko (USFS) at richard.sniezko@usda.gov or Glenn Howe (OSU) at glenn.howe@oregonstate.edu.

ODF and USDA APHIS again will offer EAB monitoring traps to local groups

ODF will give out 200 EAB traps to local governments and conservation groups, such as city governments, soil and water conservation districts, or similar. There is no cost for the traps. They are available from ODF on a first-come, first-served basis. Or they can be ordered through USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) by March 31. The traps are the purple panel type (see photo). They should be hung beyond ODA's ring of trap trees surrounding Forest Grove. Traps need to be in place before adult beetles begin to emerge in late May and June. The traps will help monitor for EAB in outlying ash woodlands. To get free traps, please contact Wyatt Williams at wyatt.williams@odf.oregon.gov. Or order through Mariah Davis at Mariah.Davis@usda.gov.



Free webinars on Oregon's forest health challenges are coming Feb. 27-28

Two free webinars on the forest health challenges facing Oregon are being held the mornings of Feb. 27-28 from 8:30 a.m. till noon. Threats range from mega wildfires, to outbreaks of diseases and invasive pests, such as EAB, sudden oak death and Mediterranean oak borer.



This two-part series will update participants on the condition of Oregon's forests, forest health trends, challenges, current research and possible solutions. Geared to foresters, forest managers, woodland owners, students and others with an interest in forest health, the webinars They will provide a blend of information and practical tips on how to manage a healthy forest. Both webinars are brought to you by Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), ODF, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and OSU's Forestry and Natural Resources Extension (College of Forestry).

Dan Stark from OSU College of Forestry can answer questions about the program. You can reach him at 541-737-2845 or email him at dave.shaw@oregonstate. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/ForestHealth2024>.

Education credits: This webinar series has been approved for:

- 6.5 Category 1 Society of American Forester (SAF) credits
- 8 Oregon Professional Logger maintenance credits.

ODF staff to teach how to foster resilient urban trees and backyards

Registration is now open for a class on making yards into healthier, more resilient ecosystems. ODF Urban and Community Forestry staff will teach the class Saturday, March 23 as part of the Tree School at Clackamas Community College. There will also be ODF-led classes on tree pests.

Title: Fostering Resilient Urban Trees and Backyard Habitats

When: Saturday, March 23rd 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Where: Clackamas Community College in Oregon City

To register or for more info, go to <https://beav.es/tree-school-clackamas>, stop by the OSU Extension office at 200 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, or call 503-655-8631.

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>

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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

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

USFS Forest Health Protection

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

