

June 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

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Emerald ash borer adults have formed weeks earlier than usual

Oregon Dept. of Forestry staff have confirmed that they saw an emerald ash borer adult after peeling back bark from a section of ash tree in King City in southeast Washington County. This is weeks earlier than expected. EAB adults usually only start to emerge in northwest Oregon sometime in the first two weeks of June.

"The very mild winter and the many warm spring days we've had in Oregon has allowed EAB larvae to develop more rapidly into adults," said ODF Invasive Species Specialist Wyatt Williams.

The first week in May Williams investigated reports of ailing Raywood ash trees in King City, a town of about 5,000 southeast of Portland. Williams found the trees were suffering dieback from verticillium wilt. But that wasn't the only cause of the trees' stress. Peeling back bark from a section of trunk of one of the trees, he found a fully formed EAB adult ready to emerge. At least two of the trees had galleries under the bark made by EAB larvae.

"This is consistent with our emergence model, which tracks temperatures to show when EAB adults will start to emerge," said Williams. "The model showed emergence beginning this year in May."

Williams noted that the rate of growth of EAB larvae is closely tied to outside temperatures. This past winter in western Oregon was tied with 1934 as the warmest on record, followed by record-breaking or near record-breaking high temperatures this spring.

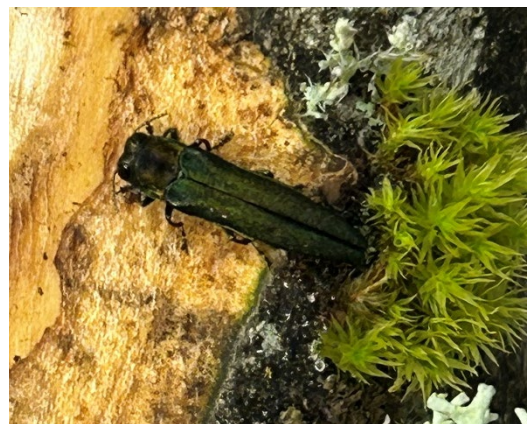


Photo: An EAB adult that emerged in early May in northwest Oregon. This is significantly earlier than expected, likely due to the mild winter and warmer spring weather in the area.

ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl said, “These changes in climate favor insect pests. It gives EAB adults more time to find a mate and then find an ash tree to infest with their eggs. At the same time, hotter temperatures and drought stress trees. This makes them less able to resist infestation, and they may decline and die sooner.”

Since it can be hard to see EAB adults, ODF suggests the public learn to identify ash trees and monitor for signs of EAB infestation, such as dieback in the upper canopy at [OregonEAB.com](https://oregonEAB.com). If you suspect an ash or olive tree is infested, report it to the Oregon Invasive Species Council at <https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/reports/create>. Or phone in a report at 1-866-INVADER (1-866-468-2337).

Record number of EAB traps set out in Oregon this spring

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) - with strong support from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - has set out a record number of traps statewide this spring to find out where emerald ash borer may be spreading. ODF received more than 500 traps from @USDA-APHIS. The traps have been distributed to more than 40 co-operating agencies and landowners. Many were placed outside the existing five-county EAB quarantine zone in northwest Oregon, which is essential for early detection and rapid response. See a map of current and historical EAB traps here: [Oregon EAB Trap App](#)

EAB is a concern because it kills all North American species of ash, including our native Oregon ash. Oregon ash is important to fish and other wildlife because it shades and cools streams, rivers and wetlands. Learn more about EAB and Oregon ash at [OregonEAB.com](https://oregonEAB.com)



ODA and USDA APHIS announce new sites for biocontrol releases

The fight against emerald ash borer using biological control continues across Oregon. As EAB spreads, so does our state's response. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is working closely with the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) to release three species of beneficial stingless wasps, called parasitoids, in every Oregon county where EAB has been detected.



Spathius galinae is one of emerald ash borers' worst nightmares. Photo courtesy of USDA APHIS.

This summer marks the first release in Multnomah County, where EAB was found late last summer. Biological control releases will soon start in the Gresham area. Releases are also planned for the Woodburn area, northern Yamhill County, and western Clackamas County.

These beneficial insects cannot harm people, animals, or Oregon's native species. The parasitoids were produced and supplied from USDA

APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, Mich. Find more info on the parasitoid wasps [here](#).

Trunk-injection workshop to protect ash trees from EAB is set for June 11

A free tree-injection workshop is being held in the University Park neighborhood of North Portland on Thursday, June 11th at the Charles Jordan Community Center. The workshop is hosted by the City of Portland in collaboration with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry program and the Pacific Northwest chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). 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. Register [here](#).

This is a popular workshop. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and will be closed when available slots are filled. The workshop will feature presentations from ODF, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, and Portland Urban Forestry on:

- pesticide licenses and categories
- best management practices from the ISA
- demonstrations of trunk injection equipment

ISA and ODA continuing education credits (CEUs) will be available 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 the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture.

Learn to identify ash trees and EAB with Yamhill SWCD in Newberg June 26

Please join Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District in Newberg for an informative presentation about ash trees and emerald ash borer identification on Friday evening, June 26. You'll also learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation. The presentation will be led by Yamhill SWCD Riparian Conservationist Rachel Kato and Outreach Coordinator Brooke Karasch. This will include some practical experience identifying ash trees and looking at emerald ash borer samples. All are welcome! The class will be outdoors, so dress for the weather.

WHEN: June 26th, 2026, 5:30-7 p.m.

WHERE: Chehalem Glenn Golf Course Pavilion

4501 E. Fernwood Rd.

Newberg, OR 97132

This session is free, but registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1989254712394>

Trees that linger after EAB's arrival may be key to finding resistance

The death toll among North American ash tree species from emerald ash borer is staggering. In many instances, entire populations are virtually wiped out. Here and there, however, a lone survivor or two, or a cluster of survivors, can be spotted amid the dead snags. These lingering ash trees, according to USDA Forest Service researchers, are the key to finding resistance to EAB. They give hope that someday ash species could once again be planted in their native range with a chance for survival.

Carrie Pike is with the Forest Service's State, Private and Tribal Forestry program for the eastern United States. In a May 19 webinar she explained how researchers with the help of collaborators are locating ash trees in areas where at least 90 percent or more have been killed by EAB for at least 2 years. Pike said about 1 percent of native ash trees appear to survive the onslaught of EAB to varying degrees.

Pike said grafted replicates are then made from those trees and are used in greenhouse bioassays that can confirm which trees are truly resistant based on the proportion of larvae the tree is able to kill. Additional grafts of the resistant trees are put in test plots of about 2 acres. These grafted trees produce pollen and seeds more quickly than seed-grown trees. Seeds are then collected and planted to further test resistance and gauge how durable it might be.

Pike said this mixing of genetic material from different survivor trees may help transmit multiple forms of resistance. This is better, she said, than cloning a survivor tree which may have only one way to stop or slow EAB, which makes it potentially easier for EAB to overcome with time. This also helps retain a diversity of other desirable traits, such as a good form or vigorous growth, that a single clone could not.

Resistance testing is underway for green, white, blue and black ash. One finding has been that blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*) has a relatively high survival rate compared to other ash

species. One reason may be that the beetle tends to avoid blue ash in preference to other species, perhaps finding it less palatable.

The USDA Forest Service's Dorena Genetic Resource Center and Oregon State University are also coordinating resistance testing in Oregon with the help of multiple collaborators, including the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. Learn more about resistance testing at these websites:

- <https://pnwtirc.forestry.oregonstate.edu/finding-genetic-resistance-emerald-ash-borer>
- <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/5.20.24-TNC-Ash-Resistance-Breeding-final.pdf>
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/tools/ash/>

If you missed Oregon Field Guide's EAB documentary here's a link

A year ago *Oregon Field Guide* first aired on Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) its story on Oregon's response to EAB in Oregon. A year in the making, the documentary is a great overview of EAB in Oregon and how people are responding. One update since it originally aired: EAB has been found within the city limits of Portland. You can view the 15 minute, 17 second story online at [Oregon's ash trees are dying — Can anything stop the Emerald ash borer beetle? | Oregon Field Guide - YouTube](#)

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 \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/2504-4461/14/11/2000)

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>

