



May 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 Awareness Week in May precedes adult EAB emergence in June

The third week in May marks the start of Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in the United States. As spring warms up, EAB larvae begin to transition into adults. Based on temperature models, those adults are predicted to emerge in Oregon in the first two weeks of June. For example, last year's first emergence in the Willamette Valley was June 10. Most adults will have emerged by mid-July, although a few stragglers can emerge as late as September.

By May ash trees have leafed out, making it an excellent time to spot dieback which could be a sign of EAB infestation. Find more information about whether you have an ash tree and what signs signal EAB infestation at <https://oregon-eab-geo.hub.arcgis.com/pages/identify> or [here](#).

In light of EAB Awareness Week, the national Don't Move Firewood team has several talks lined up on various aspects of EAB and the response to it, including one specifically on EAB in the Pacific Northwest. See the registration links below, or head to this page (<https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/eabweek2026/>) for more details.

- Tuesday May 19th - 11 a.m. Eastern (8 a.m. Pacific time zone)

Resistance to EAB is real - here's what we can do to help restore ash in the future

Learn how resistance breeding may help us retain ash in the landscape in a post-EAB era and talk heritable resistance in green and white ash.

<<[Register Here](#)>>

- Wednesday May 20th 1pm EST

Ash-kicking outreach in Oregon and Washington

Meet Alex, Don't Move Firewood's new outreach specialist for the Pacific Northwest and learn about his efforts to enhance and expand partnerships in firewood outreach.

<<[Register Here](#)>>

- Wednesday Thursday May 21st 1pm EST

EAB from crisis to opportunity: managing and growing a resilient urban forest in Minneapolis, Minn.

Learn the process behind how Minneapolis selected a diverse mix of trees in the wake of forest pests and climate change.

<<[Register Here](#)>>

City of Keizer plans to inventory its trees in advance of EAB's arrival

The City of Keizer isn't waiting for emerald ash borer (EAB) to arrive to take steps for dealing with it. The first step is to find out how many of the 7-square-mile city's trees are ash and therefore vulnerable to loss from EAB. That's why Keizer is seeking volunteers to help inventory trees this summer in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry. EAB was found last year in Woodburn just 16 miles north of Keizer.

ODF's EAB Support Specialist Kat Bethea said, "For municipalities preparing for emerald ash borer, an inventory is a great place to start a management plan. You can't manage what you don't know you have."

Bethea said that an active inventory also allows cities and municipalities to make data-informed decisions about canopy, prioritize areas for new plantings, and understand the overall health of their urban forest.

Volunteers are needed to help collect data on tree location, species, quantity, and condition throughout Keizer.

1. Sign up for volunteers shifts and watch training videos.
2. Conduct at least two tree surveys at your convenience between May and October.
3. Tell your friends to join this community science inventory.

Visit [City of Keizer's Urban Tree Inventory page](#) to learn more about how to participate.



Alison Herrell of ODF measuring a tree's diameter at breast height (DBH. This) is a key datapoint when doing an inventory. Photo by Jenny Ammon.

ODF is distributing traps for Mediterranean oak borer this spring

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry, with help from Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and various collaborators across the state, will be trapping for Mediterranean oak borers (MOB) an exotic insect that spreads a potentially fatal fungus to Oregon white oaks.

The traps are being placed in counties where MOB has not previously been detected, or in parts of counties where it has not been seen yet, according to ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl, who is the agency's lead on the MOB issue. She said most of the traps went out in April to co-operators.

MOB has been found in traps or trees in Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill counties.

Buhl said funding for the traps comes from the federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Photo: Blackened galleries made in an Oregon white oak by MOB showing infection with a fungus this pest carries.



Sudden oak death continues to be found in new sites in SW Oregon

Last year, 51 new sites between Rogue River and Port Orford were found to be infected with the sudden oak death (SOD) pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*). These are all outside the quarantine zone set up in 2015 to slow the spread of SOD.



The new detections triggered an immediate expansion of the SOD Emergency Quarantine Boundary. The area has expanded to 289 square miles. ODF is working closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other landowners within the new emergency quarantine boundary to prioritize treatment of infected sites.

The SOD Program monitors disease spread through aerial, ground, and stream surveys. Last year, 54 streams were baited to detect the presence of the SOD pathogen from April to November. *Phytophthora ramorum* was detected in 31 of them with notable positives along the Sixes and Elk rivers and south in the Winchuck River area. This year, due to budget restrictions, 33 streams will be baited to look for *P. ramorum*.

The US Forest Service and ODF staff plan to complete two helicopter surveys this year.

- A July flight will focus on all dead tanoaks mapped outside of the generally infested area following the annual fixed-wing flight.

- An October flight will be focused on high-priority areas of the Sixes River, Elk River, and Nail Keg (Rogue River area) and any new outlier areas.

Researchers are studying persistence of SOD pathogen in downed logs

In November, 45 SOD-infected trees were felled in Myers Creek and Myrtle Creek in Curry County. These trees will be resampled every three months – in February, May, and August 2026 – to determine how long *P. ramorum* persists in logs. In 2025 180 samples were collected for this study, with 61 more samples collected in February 2026.

Air curtain incinerator burns slated for Portland and Polk County

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program will be holding a series of air curtain incinerator (ACI) demonstrations in the upper Willamette Valley in early May. If you are unfamiliar with ACIs, [here is a brief introductory video](#).

These planned burns are for land managers, conservation organizations, tree-care companies, municipalities, and anyone having to deal with wood waste and biomass on private or public land in Oregon. Staff will show how ACIs can be used as a tool for biomass reduction and carbon sequestration in wood sanitization, wood waste use, and fuel-reduction projects. Using ACIs reduces smoke and air pollution compared to pile burning. Join one of these events and participate in a discussion on how ACIs can be used throughout Oregon. Please share this information with others in your network who may be interested.



For questions, please reach out to InvasivePests@odf.oregon.gov Space is limited so sign up today. Just click on the link by the event you'd like to attend.

- Wednesday, May 6th, 12:30 pm – 2 pm
Portland <https://forms.office.com/g/XXfPEvzSnv>
- Tuesday, May 12th, 10:30 am – 2 pm. Polk
County <https://forms.office.com/g/YF95C9Nv8g>

Oregon's native hemlocks are more resistant to hemlock wooly adelgid

In a rare bit of good news on the invasive species front, both species of hemlock native to the Pacific Northwest – western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and mountain hemlock (*T. mertensiana*) – show better resistance than their eastern cousin to the invasive hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*). Northern Japanese hemlock (*T. diversifolia*) is also reported as resistant.

Hemlock wooly adelgid is believed to have reached the Pacific Northwest as long as 20,000 years ago during the last Ice Age, giving Northwest hemlocks time to evolve resistance. However, the pest arrived in the eastern U.S. for the first time from Japan only in the 1950s. The pest has spread since then from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River and into southern Canada. The native hemlock in that region (*T. canadensis*) is proving to be very susceptible. Large numbers of these hemlocks have died after heavy infestation, altering forest composition in places where hemlocks were once common.



Photo: Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) may have adapted to hemlock wooly adelgid over the past 20,000 years, giving it an edge against the pest its eastern cousins have only been exposed to since the 1950s.

Western hemlock is a key commercial tree species of the Pacific coast and northern Rocky Mountains. Its range extends north in the Coast ranges from central California to the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. It is the dominant species in British Columbia and Alaska and is prominent in western Oregon and Washington State, where it is the official state tree. It is a major source of pulp for making paper.

Learn more about hemlock wooly adelgid [here](#).

EAB identification workshop is scheduled for May 28 in Oregon City

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting an emerald ash borer identification workshop on May 28th, from 1 – 3:30 p.m., at Hillendale Park in Oregon City. Intended for members of the public, it will cover how to:

- identify ash trees

- spot the signs and symptoms of EAB
- use the reporting tools to track EAB

See this link for more information and to register:

<https://conservationdistrict.org/2026/emerald-ash-borer-eab-identification-workshop.html>

Multi-city USFS survey shows city residents are interested in urban wood products

In the largest survey to date of urban wood perceptions and practices, U.S. Forest Service researchers analyzed a representative survey of residential landowners in Portland, Ore. and five other cities across the United States (Houston and Austin, Texas; Baltimore, St. Louis and Denver). The research appeared in the publication *Arboriculture and Urban Forestry* which you can read [here](#).

The researchers assessed:

- status of participation in urban wood systems; and
- interest in and perceived importance of urban wood products.

Overall, 15% of residential landowners reported buying or acquiring urban wood products in the past. Landowners were more likely to purchase—and were more interested in—lower-value products like wood chips and compost than higher-value products like lumber or furniture. Private sector actors, such as landscaping and tree care companies, and social sources, like friends and family, were more often seen as sources of trusted information for tree-care advice than local or state government and nonprofits.



Photo: Survey shows urban U.S. residents are more interested in compost from fallen urban trees than higher-value products like furniture.

For the past 20 years, about twice as many trees were removed each year from urban areas in the USA as were harvested from U.S. national forests. Assuming 2% of urban trees are felled each year due to disease, pests, storms or other causes, that represents more than 7 billion board feet of lumber. By comparison, the annual timber harvests from 2005 to 2024 from all US national forests have ranged from 2 billion to 2.9 billion board feet. Yet, most of the urban wood is treated as waste instead of as a valuable resource to boost local economies.

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>