OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS

October 2025

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:

APHIS and ODA release more parasitoid wasps to help dent EAB numbers

While they can't eliminate EAB, parasitoid wasps that are natural enemies of EAB in Asia can help keep their populations down. In a collaboration between the federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, three species of these wasps were released in significant numbers in Oregon this year:

- *Spathius galinae* – 6,280
- *Oobius argilis* – 6,500
- *Tetrastichus planipennisi* – 9,880

ODA Biological Control Entomologist Max Ragozzino said the releases were made in Washington County and in the border area between Marion and Clackamas counties. "These are where EAB appears to have become well established. This gives the best chance for the parasitoid wasps to find them and gain a foothold."

The parasitoids were produced and supplied from, the United States Department of Agriculture's APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, Michigan. For parasitoid information please call 866-322-4512.

Below: Tetrastichus planipennisi, one of three parasitoid wasps released in Oregon this year to help control EAB. USDA Forest Service photo.

Ragozzino said he's encouraged that, based on earlier releases, the tiny wasps can survive in western Oregon's climate. The wasps are harmless to humans, pets, and other wildlife, needing EAB as a host. You can read more about *Tetrastichus planipennisi* here.

EAB in the Pacific NW to be topic of The Nature Conservancy webinar

The Nature Conservancy is hosting a series of webinars this fall. One will feature Oregon Dept. of Forestry's Invasive Species Manager Wyatt Williams and others from his agency along with staff from the Washington Invasive Species Council focusing on recent EAB infestations in the Pacific Northwest. They'll cover management actions to slow the pest's spread, manage and mitigate its impact, and give updates on quarantines.

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Pacific Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025

Register here

ODF invites you to an air-curtain incinerator demonstration burn

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry is holding four more demonstration burns using air-curtain incinerator equipment this month and next. Anyone interested in seeing how the mobile incinerating equipment works to consume wood waste while producing minimal smoke is invited. There is no cost to attend but please register. The burns will be:

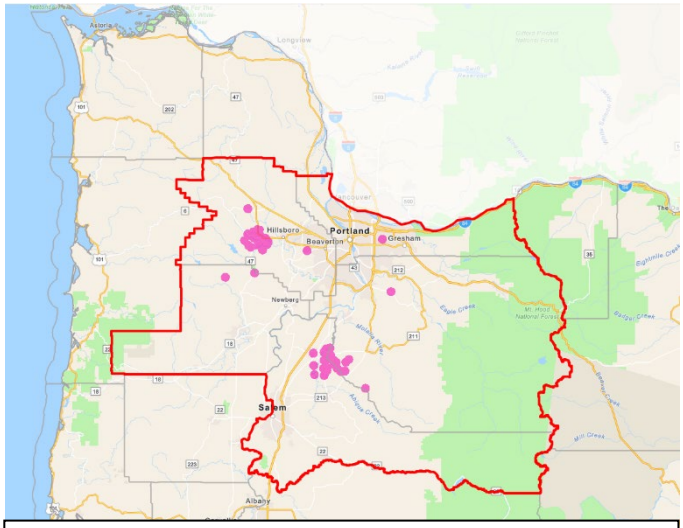
- Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – City of Salem
  Register here.
- Friday, Oct. 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Oregon Country Fair in Veneta in Lane County. Register here.
- Monday, Nov. 17 – LaPine State Park in Deschutes County
- Tuesday, Nov. 18 – Collier State Park near Chiloquin in Klamath County

To attend, please contact matt.p.mills@odf.oregon.gov

This year's trapping season for EAB ends

By the end of September most emerald ash borer adults have lived out their short lifespans. This means the end of the trapping season, since there are no adults flying around to be caught in the sticky purple traps. Traps should be taken down for the winter.

Wyatt Williams, ODF's Invasive Species Specialist, said the federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service had supplied just over 300 traps this year to Oregon. ODF helped distribute traps to 20 cooperators. Six of the cooperators were the cities of Beaverton, Bend, Hillsboro, Portland, Redmond, and Salem. Four were soil and water conservation districts for Clackamas, Marion, Western Multnomah, and Yamhill counties. Other cooperators were state and federal agencies, recreation districts, OSU Extension, Western Oregon University in Monmouth, and the Institute for Applied Ecology, which is headquartered in Corvallis.



Red line on map above shows the five counties within Oregon's EAB quarantine zone.

Williams said nine of the traps this summer captured one or more EAB. Six of those detections were in new locations beyond those that were already known, including the first detection in Multnomah County.

Staff from state agencies found five ash trees were positive for EAB out of 82 they inspected. Reports also continued to be sent to the EAB hotline at OregonEAB.com, with an uptick after media stories of EAB being found in east Portland. Of 187 reports to the hotline, at least eight of those reports yielded positive results.

"The positive hotline reports were from areas where we already know EAB is present," said Williams. ""As the population of EAB builds in coming years, it is important that people become more aware of what symptoms and signs to look for and where to report them."

EAB continues to spread unstoppably in the eastern US and Great Plains

While Oregon saw EAB spread to new areas this summer, this pest has also been steadily expanding its range in the eastern U.S. This year new counties were confirmed to be infested in Maine, Minnesota, eastern South Dakota, eastern Kansas, central Texas, and northern Alabama, which represent the leading edge of the infestation. East of the Mississippi River only Florida and Mississippi have to date no confirmed EAB sightings.

Although EAB has been in Boulder, Colorado for more than a decade, efforts to slow its spread may have helped delay its entry into Denver, only 30 miles away. Denver only in June confirmed its arrival. Find a county-by-county map nationally of where EAB has been confirmed here.

Woodpeckers are a welcome ally in the fight against EAB

Oregon is home to a lot of different woodpecker species. Around 10 of the nation's 17 or so species call parts of the state home for at least some of the year. Woodpeckers use their strong beaks to dig for insects in and under tree bark. Their acute sense of hearing lets them pinpoint wood-boring insects and larvae chewing their way through a tree's living inner bark. The woodpecker then digs out the larvae and feasts on it.

Although woodpeckers did not evolve alongside EAB, they have readily taken to eating them. One study in Ohio showed that woodpeckers were able to eat up to 85% of larvae inside infested ash trees.

Observations in other parts of the U.S. show that woodpeckers appear to favor foraging in EAB-infested ash forests, likely because of the bounty of juicy larvae to be had and more dead ash trees creating ideal nesting sites as they turned into standing snags. Researchers at Cornell University tracked the movement of EAB from Detroit and around the Great Lakes and the impact on bird populations using a citizen scientist database, the Project Feeder Watch. They found an increase in numbers for three woodpecker species and the white-breasted nuthatch, important bark-foraging birds in that region.

Pileated woodpecker. Photo by Jeff Jones via ODFW.

Read more on the topic here.

Publications

- ***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://forms.office.com/g/p3EbRa7HKv

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