



October 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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Washington State officials announce their first confirmed EAB detection

An Aug. 19 news release by the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) confirmed that emerald ash borer has now been found in Oregon's neighbor to the north. According to the release, the discovery was made in the community of Hazel Dell just north of Vancouver in Clark County. Two people found on their windshield an adult EAB, whose identity was later confirmed by a federal lab. Hazel Dell is just over 14 miles from the site in east Portland where EAB was detected in 2025.

In response to the detection, WSDA reminded Washingtonians of the state's new [firewood quarantine](#), which prohibits the transportation of untreated firewood into the state (see following story).

State officials have been preparing for the pest's arrival for years. Washington state agencies have developed an [Emerald Ash Borer Resource and Management Guide](#) and an [Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook](#) to help residents and local governments detect and respond to infestations.

According to the release, assistance for coping with EAB is available to cities through the [Department of Natural Resources](#) as long as funding is available.

State officials are urging the public to keep an eye out for the pest. Suspected sightings within Washington State should be reported to the [Washington Invasive Species Council](#) or via the Washington Invasives app.

Washington State imposes ban on imports of untreated firewood

To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive insects and diseases, the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) has imposed a quarantine on untreated firewood from outside the state. A WSDA news release states that the quarantine took effect on August 18.



The new rule was adopted in February by the state Legislature. According to the WSDA website, the rule prohibits the importation into Washington of untreated firewood from outside the state. Firewood imported into Washington must be heat-treated to a minimum wood-core temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit (71 degrees

Celsius) for at least 60 minutes or receive an equivalent WSDA-approved treatment. The firewood must also be labeled to show its source and display the statement "Approved Pest Free."

Firewood harvested within Washington is exempt from the quarantine as are processed wood products, such as compressed wood bricks, wood pellets, logs, or wood products transported for industrial uses, such as to sawmills, pulp and paper mills, and biomass or wood composite facilities. Civil penalties up to \$5,000 per violation can be imposed.

Oregon Garden takes steps to protect its ash trees from EAB

Just weeks after emerald ash borer was first found in Silverton, The Oregon Garden has protected from infestation eight ash trees on its grounds by injecting them with emamectin benzoate. The highly visible trees - seven white ash and one narrow-leaf ash - are located in the Bosque Garden, a popular wedding venue at The Oregon Garden in Silverton.

Earlier this summer a local tree care professional, Rolando Beorchia of Sunrise Restoration, reported to the Invasive Species Hotline that they'd seen EAB in a neighborhood ash tree on the north side of Silverton. Later several EAB were found in a trap on the grounds of the 130-acre botanical garden.

Oregon Dept. of Forestry and Oregon Forestry Resource Institute staff were



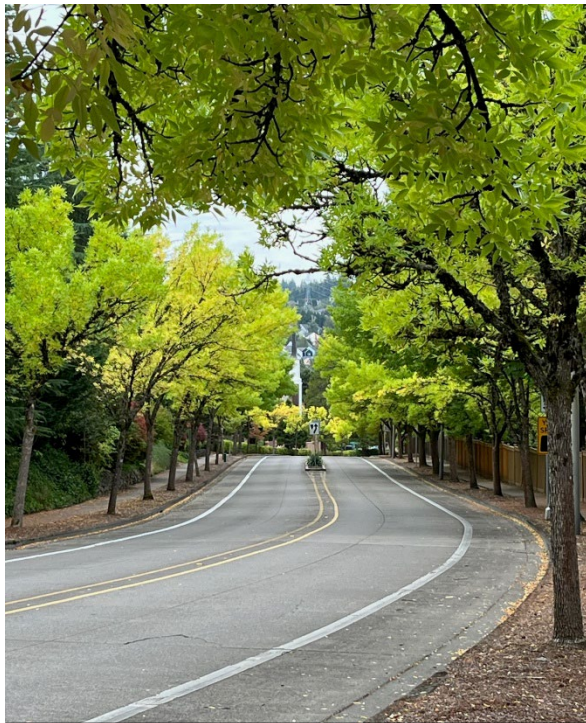
Above: ODF Community Assistance Forester Alison Herrell prepares to drill into the base of an Autumn Purple white ash at the Oregon Garden in order to inject an insecticide that will protect the tree against emerald ash borer.

both on hand for the treatments. ODF Community Assistance Forester Alison Herrell holds a pesticide applicator's license and administered the systemic injections.

The Oregon Garden opened in 1999 and sees about 100,000 visitors a year.

Beaverton City Council passes funding to protect 1,400 more ash trees

Beaverton City Councilors have voted in favor of their Urban Forestry department's request for additional funds to protect more of the city's ash trees from emerald ash borers. The extra



Above: These ash trees along Sexton Drive in Beaverton are among 1,400 more that will be protected against EAB next year in addition to 600 ash street trees Beaverton has protected this year. Photo courtesy Jered Lane.

funds will help Beaverton hire three seasonal workers and purchase insect treatment and equipment to treat 1,400 ash street trees. City workers last year had already protected 600 street trees that were ash. This year they also protected 22 significant native Oregon ash trees over 20" diameter that were growing in a city maintained natural grove that is predominantly ash.

The protective treatment is with systemic injections of emamectin benzoate. The insecticide is highly effective at preventing infestations by EAB for two to three years. Treatments can be repeated as needed.

Treatment of the street trees is scheduled to begin in spring 2027. All should be protected by September 2027.

Beaverton officials say the work is an important step in slowing the spread of EAB and reducing long-term impacts to Beaverton's tree canopy. They also cited safety benefits from reducing the number of ash trees along city streets that may be killed by EAB and become hazardous to traffic and pedestrians.

The first EAB detection inside the city limits of Beaverton was confirmed this summer just west of Washington Square.

Europeans face dual attacks from EAB, ash dieback pathogen

This summer Hungary became the first country in the European Union to have a confirmed infestation of emerald ash borer. Bordering Hungary on the north, Slovakia has also reported the presence of EAB, although that find remains suspected pending official confirmation by an EU lab in France.

EAB is native to the Russian Far East and other parts of East Asia. However, it had not been seen west of the Urals before 2007 when it was reported in western Russia. By 2019 the pest had made its way to Ukraine and Belarus.

Below: European ash species like this one in flower (seen growing in Salem) face dual threats in their homeland from ash dieback and now EAB.



Europe is home to three species of ash:

- Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
- Manna ash (*Fraxinus ornus*)
- Narrow-leaved ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

At the same time as EAB is invading Europe, a pathogen from East Asia that attacks and kills ash trees is also ravaging the continent's forests. First seen in Poland in 1992, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* is now widespread on the continent. Where present, it attacks and kills the vast majority of ash trees.

The pathogen causing ash dieback hasn't yet been reported in North America. USDA Forest Geneticist Richard Snieszko from the Dorena Genetic Resource Center near Eugene reports that he has sent seed of Oregon ash to European colleagues asking that they plant them and check if any resulting seedlings show resistance to ash dieback.

A glimmer of hope from England

British scientists at the John Innes Centre in Norfolk reportedly have found ash groves in northern England where about 90 percent of young seedlings of the native *F. excelsior* appear to be resistant to ash dieback. That compares to about 5 percent resistance seen in ash elsewhere in Britain. Their observations were published in the journal *Plants, People, Planet*. The researchers hope over time that as resistant trees mature and set seed they will slowly recolonize areas deforested by ash dieback.

In the same article, they discuss research done at Ohio State University showing that

*Below: Visitors this summer inspect a field site in Sweden where ash trees are being evaluated for resistance to ash dieback. The trial showed high mortality of these *Fraxinus excelsior* trees.*



F. excelsior has at least moderate resistance to the emerald ash borer (EAB). This could give Europeans a better chance for the eventual recovery of ash than North America, where resistance to EAB appears very low in most native ash. Read more [here](#).

Portland plans to girdle ash trees to better map where EAB is spreading



The City of Portland girdled four ash trees this spring in hopes that female emerald ash borers will be attracted to the distressed trees and lay their eggs on them. When those trees are cut down in the fall, they will be debarked to see if any larvae are inside.

This method has been used to help pinpoint where EAB is spreading before obvious signs of tree dieback are apparent.

EAB was first spotted in Portland in late summer 2025 in a parking lot in a parking lot east of the I-205 freeway. EAB was trapped at that same location earlier this summer, but it has not yet been reported from elsewhere inside the city limits.

ODF EAB support specialists will lead a debarking demonstration at the ODF Seed Orchard in St. Paul on Oct. 13 for staff from City of Portland, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Forest Service to hold a webinar Oct. 6 on EAB resistance ash breeding

Mary Mason, a geneticist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, is giving a webinar on the status of efforts to breed resistance to emerald ash borer into ash trees. The free webinar will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6. ISA continuing education credits are available for the webinar. Register [here](#).

Publications

- ***Protective neighboring effect from ash trees treated with systemic insecticide against emerald ash borer*** by Rafael B de Andrade, Kristopher Abell, Jian J Duan, Paula Shrewsbury, Daniel S Gruner First published in *Pest Management Science* Aug. 10, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.6041>
- ***Ash population dynamics after two decades of Emerald Ash Borer infestations in Canada*** by Élise Deschênes, Christian MacQuarrie, Laura Scott, Craig Zimmerman, and Isabelle Aubin in the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, May 2026. <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjfr-2026-0075>

- **Select genotypes of white and green ash show heritable, elevated resistance to emerald ash borer** by Mary E. Mason, Dave W. Carey, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Kathleen S. Knight, Therese M. Poland and Jennifer L. Koch in the international journal *New Forests* [Select genotypes of white and green ash show heritable, elevated resistance to emerald ash borer | New Forests | Springer Nature Link](#)
- **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>