OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS

September 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:

EAB is confirmed in East Portland causing Multnomah County to be placed under an EAB quarantine

With confirmation late in August by a federal lab that an insect found in East Portland is indeed emerald ash borer, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture has placed Multnomah County under a quarantine designed to protect other counties against human spread of the insect.

After an alert private arborist, Peter Van Oss with Teragan and Associates, noticed that green ash trees *(Fraxinus pennsylvanica)* on property of the David Douglas School District in Portland's Hazelwood neighborhood were ailing, state officials were called in. They found what looked like adult EAB flying around the trees. They also found larval galleries under the bark of one tree, and what looked like the remains of EAB larvae that had been parasitized by parasitoid wasps. Samples were sent to the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) lab in Maryland and were confirmed to be EAB near the end of August.

Surveys of ash trees in the area showed a number that appear to be showing signs of EAB infestation.

The discovery of EAB in Portland city limits brings into play the City's Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan, which was completed just this summer. The plan calls for high-value publicly owned ash trees in low-canopy neighborhoods to be treated with systemic injection of the insecticide emamectin benzoate to protect them from EAB.

Under the plan, ash trees planted in the wrong site for their mature size or in only fair or poor condition are to be removed as resources allow to limit hazards to people and property.

The most recent survey of Portland's street trees showed 3.9% of all street trees in the city were ash. That's more than 9,700 ash trees in danger of dying from EAB in the next three to seven years if not treated.

To find out where ash trees are growing as street trees in Portland, go to the City's Tree Inventory map.

Photo at right: Portland Pests and Pathogens Coordinator Anya Moucha removes a sticky trap in which an EAB was found this summer in east Portland.

EAB found at 5 new sites in Washington, Clackamas and Yamhill counties

A few years after emerald ash borer (EAB) arrives in a new region its population builds up and expands rapidly in all directions. As expected, that appears to be happening in northwest Oregon.

This summer the invasive insect was found a mile west of Beaverton's city limits in the Hazeldale Park area and in western Washington County in Killin Wetlands Nature Park near Banks. Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District found one in a trap five miles northwest of the town of Yamhill. It was also found in Clackamas County three miles southeast of Oregon City and in Marion County on BLM-managed land not far from Scotts Mills.

All five sites are within the existing EAB quarantine zone set up by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to slow the spread of this tree-killing pest. For more information about EAB and to see a map of where it has been found in Oregon, visit 2025 EAB Trap WebMap (PUBLIC).

New model developed to predict natural spread of EAB in the Pacific NW

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Washington State University, and the Bureau of Land Management have worked together to create a model that can predict the natural spread of EAB throughout the Pacific Northwest. The model works by comparing the likely spread here to EAB in parts of Europe and Asia that have similar climates to ours. The model predicts that EAB could be in Washington in the next two years, the lower Willamette Valley in 10 years, and southern Oregon in 20.

"It's important to note that this does not account for human actions that could either speed up or slow down the rate of spread," said the ODA's Cody Holthouse, who chairs the state's Interagency EAB Task Force. "As we all know, someone could transport infested firewood to Eugene tomorrow and speed up the spread."

EAB continues to spread in eastern Europe

Belarus is the latest country in Europe where EAB has been reported. Slightly smaller in size than Idaho, the nation of 9 million people is located between Russia on the east and Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania on the west. This puts this pest very close to European Union countries. EAB is already killing ash trees in Russia and Ukraine. Read more here.

Legislature adjourns without funding Japanese beetle eradication effort

The Oregon Legislature adjourned at the end of June without passing SB 576, which would have continued funding for Oregon Dept. of Agriculture efforts to eradicate an outbreak of Japanese beetle in Oregon.

ODA has been battling the beetles for almost a decade since they were detected in Washington County. The numbers of beetles trapped by the agency and the size of the area infested had been steadily falling thanks to treatments to kill the grubs, which overwinter underground.

ODA's Cody Holthouse, Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program Manager said, "Our staff had been very successful in limiting the spread of Japanese beetle in Oregon. I estimate that with three to five more years of sustained effort we could have completely eliminated this current outbreak."

Holthouse said emergency funds from the Oregon Invasive Species Council and the Oregon Association of Nurseries will let ODA finish collecting from traps through September. "After that we are done," he says.

Uncontrolled, Japanese beetle populations are now expected to quickly increase and attack a wide variety of crops, ornamental plants, urban trees and shrubs. According to the national ArborDay Foundation, at particular risk are trees in the rose family (apples, crabapples, cherries, apricots, and plums) as well as lindens, Japanese maples, pin oaks, crape myrtles, and sassafras, among others.

ODA to hold workshop on woodborer identification in Wilsonville Oct. 6-10

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is holding a woodborer identification workshop October 6 through 10 (Monday to Friday) at their North Valley Complex office, 26755 S.W. 95th Ave. in Wilsonville, Ore. Woodborers to be covered include *Buprestidae and Cerambycidae* for the western US and *Siricidae* for all of North America, as well as target exotic pest species with an emphasis on adults. Class size is limited to about 25 participants.

The classes are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a one-hour lunch. Most of the day will be spent working with specimens under a microscope. No field trips are planned. ODA will provide specimens from their collection for the workshop, but they encourage participants to bring their own specimens and samples. Participants need to bring a laptop capable of running PowerPoint and displaying PDFs. Some microscopes will be available based on a first-come, first-served basis. If bringing your own microscope, it needs to be capable of at least 40X magnification.

REGISTER: Details including an agenda can be found at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-woodborer-workshop-tickets-1411062338439?aff=oddtdtcreator, where you can officially register.

You can also email Joshua.vlach@oda.oregon.gov to indicate your interest.

ODF to hold more air-curtain incinerator demonstration burns this fall

This fall the Oregon Dept. of Forestry is funding five more demonstration burns using air-curtain incinerator equipment. The burns will be:

- Saturday, Sept. 27 - during the OSU Extension Tree School at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest outside Oregon City
- Mid-October – City of Salem (location, date and time TBD)
- Saturday, Oct. 25 – Oregon Country Fair in Veneta in Lane County
- 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

Wilsonville removes beloved heritage tree infested by MOB

Wilsonville's first heritage tree was removed Aug. 13th after succumbing to damage by the invasive Mediterranean oak borer beetle species. After working for two years to stop the spread of the beetles to local Oregon white oaks, the West Linn-Wilsonville School District and the city's planning office decided that the Cumberland oak at Wilsonville High School needed to be removed.

A combination of damage from the beetles, nearby construction, and winter storms had damaged the oak beyond preservation. Last year, a consulting arborist attempted to prune all infected and dying tree limbs and treated the Oregon white oak to remove the beetles.

The damage to the heritage tree is a reminder of the speed at which an invasive species like the Mediterranean oak borer can act. Between 2019 and 2025 the tree went from perfectly healthy and thriving to essentially dead, according to city officials.

"The decline was not due to lack of care," said Georgia McAlister, associate city planner, in the city's Boones Ferry Messenger newsletter. "The School District has done an incredible job

caring for the tree consistently over many years. It was among the best cared for Oregon white oaks in Wilsonville."

The Cumberland oak was Wilsonville's first heritage tree. It was dedicated in 1990.

Publications

- *'**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