

August 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

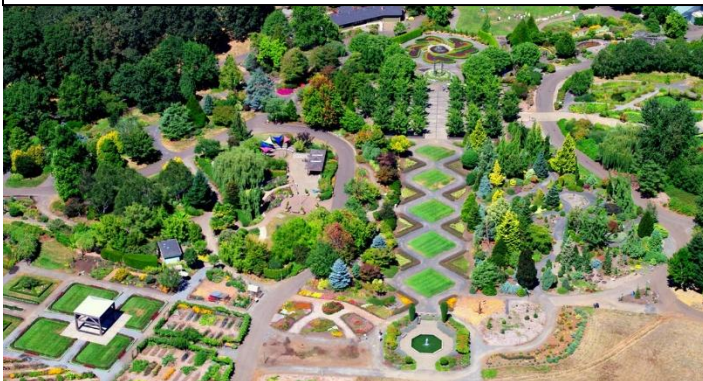
In this issue:

- *New round of EAB detections in mid-summer includes first found in Salem, Beaverton*
- *First infestation by MOB of a tree in Yamhill County was confirmed this summer*
- *Past decade has seen a tripling of new woodborers establishing themselves in Oregon*
- *Yamhill SWCD to hold Aug. 21 EAB workshop in Newberg*
- *ODA brings on Genoveva Rodríguez-Castañeda as new manager for the Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program*
- *More and more Willamette Valley cities are taking steps to respond to EAB*
- *Researchers are still investigating to what degree olive trees can host EAB*

EAB turns up in Salem, Beaverton, and the Oregon Garden in Silverton

Reports coming in from collaborators checking their EAB traps in mid-July reveal that emerald ash borer has spread more widely this year in Oregon than ever before. While all the reports came from traps within the existing five-county EAB quarantine zone, some were in new communities. For example, the state's capital city reported its first confirmed detection along the West Fork Pringle Creek in south Salem. EAB was also detected for the first time inside Beaverton's city limits. That find was in Greenway Park just west of Washington Square mall. Also in Washington County, EAB was found at Bethany Lake Park in the Rockcreek area and along the Banks-Vernonia State Trail near Banks. The latter detection is the northernmost point EAB has ever been seen in Oregon and the first in a state park.

Below: EAB has now been reported from The Oregon Garden in Silverton. Photo: The Oregon Garden.



Not surprisingly, EAB showed up again in places it had already been detected, including the same school parking lot in east Portland where it was first seen in Multnomah County last summer, and in Hazeldale Park in Aloha. Silverton had reported its first EAB sighting in a residential neighborhood this June, but the pest has now been found across town at The Oregon Garden, a 130-acre botanical garden.

“Experience with EAB in other states shows that this kind of rapid diffusion four or five years after EAB is first spotted in a state is to be expected,” said ODF EAB Support Specialist Kat Bethea.

Bethea said “While we know we can’t eradicate EAB, we can all try to slow its spread to new counties.”

First tree in Yamhill County is found to be infested by MOB

Although Mediterranean oak borers (MOB) have been caught in traps in Yamhill County since 2024, this summer was the first time they have been found in a tree in that county. The infested tree is an Oregon white oak growing in a grove of oaks along Highway 99W near Amity. The grove sits in an agricultural area which appears to have compacted soil, according to ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl, who visited the site to confirm the report.

Another tree, this time in Washington County, has also been confirmed this summer as being infested with MOB. Buhl said, “MOB has turned up in both traps and trees in Washington County before, so the new finding is not surprising.”



Above: This is the first Oregon white oak in Yamhill County found to be infested with Mediterranean oak borer. Previously MOB in that county had only been found in traps.

ODA records show a jump in new woodborers making homes in Oregon

The Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM) tracks all land-based invertebrate species new to Oregon. This includes all insects, mites, slugs, snails, spiders, and worms. New arrivals occur constantly, usually brought in by people. Arriving vehicles, boats, cargo ships, packing material, live plants, and especially firewood can all harbor tiny stowaways or their eggs.

Since 2007, Oregon has averaged over 10 new species arriving per year. Of those, about one in five are known pests when detected.

For Oregonians concerned about the state’s forests, tree nurseries, urban landscapes and wood-products industry, non-native woodborers making their way to Oregon is of particular concern. That concern appears well founded.

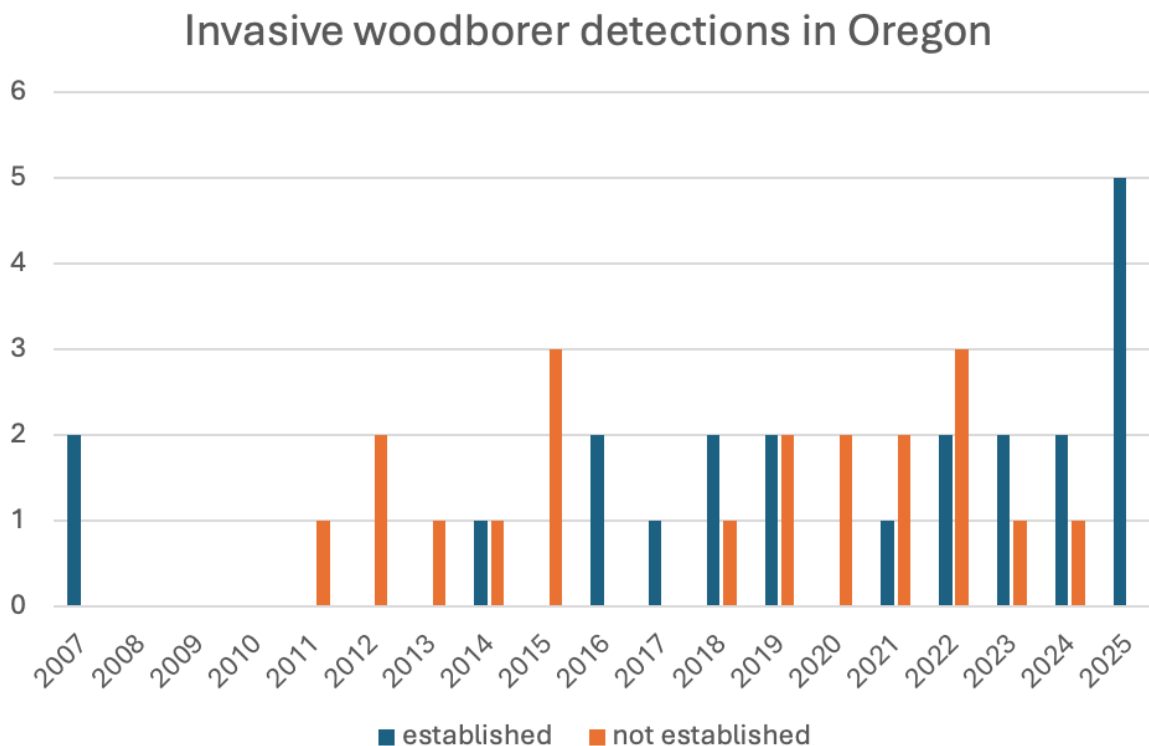
According to records kept by ODA Entomologist Joshua Vlach, the numbers of new woodborer arrivals is increasing. In the 10 years from 2007 to 2016, there were five new woodborers establishing themselves in Oregon. But from 2017 to 2025 the number of woodborers carving

out a place for themselves in Oregon has more than tripled to 17. The ODA publishes their findings of new pest detections on their [Pest Detections webpage](#)

Vlach said many borers hide inside firewood and are brought in unwittingly by people transporting that firewood long distances. “That’s likely how emerald ash borer made its way to Oregon. So, we ask that people either buy firewood near where they plan to burn it, or not move firewood more than 10 miles from where they cut it unless they properly heat treat it.”

Oregon does hold a [firewood quarantine](#) in efforts to prevent the movement of invasive pests into the state from outside the Pacific Northwest. All firewood being imported into Oregon for sale must be heat treated to a minimum wood core temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 60 minutes. Firewood from Idaho and Washington are exempt. If you suspect that firewood is being sold that does not meet this standard, please contact the ODA by emailing: quarantine@oda.oregon.gov You can learn more by visiting the Oregon informational page at [Don't Move Firewood.org](#).

Learn more about new insect pest detections in Oregon [here](#).



Yamhill SWCD will hold workshop on EAB on Aug. 21 in Newberg

With the recent detection of emerald ash borer (EAB) just outside Newberg, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District has been working to increase public awareness of this invasive pest. The District hosted a workshop at Chehalem Glenn Golf Course in Newberg in July and plans to hold a second workshop there on August 21. These workshops teach landowners how

to identify ash trees, recognize the signs and symptoms of EAB infestation, and report suspected EAB activity. Register for the August workshop [here](#).

In addition to hosting workshops, the District has been raising awareness by posting informational posters throughout the community. Currently, 13 posters are displayed at local businesses and organizations. If any other local businesses are interested in posting a sign, please reach out to Rachel Kato at rachel@yamhillswcd.org.

ODA names new Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program Manager

Genoveva Rodríguez-Castañeda brings agricultural expertise and ecological insight to her role as the new Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM) Program Manager at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. She replaces Cody Holthouse, who left at the end of 2026 to relocate to the Puget Sound area.

Rodríguez-Castañeda's career has centered on understanding how insects, plants, and natural enemies interact across forests, farms, and diverse landscapes. Her research spanned tropical mountains, forest ecosystems, and plant–insect relationships. She was most recently working for Prolific Earth Sciences, a startup that makes microBIOMETER. That's a science kit to study soil health, improve soil regeneration, and reduce fertilizer and pesticide use on crops.

On the applied science side, Genoveva has spent more than 15 years designing field trials in specialty crops and natural systems, partnering directly with growers to develop integrated pest management strategies that reduce pesticide use while protecting beneficial insects. She specializes in turning complex ecological data into practical, grower-ready solutions that improve yield. Her work has consistently bridged scientific innovation with real-world agricultural needs, from soil restoration to invasive pest management.

Rodríguez-Castañeda, who moved to Oregon from Washington State, says she is deeply motivated to support industry, strengthen resilient food systems, and safeguard the tree-based ecosystems that underpin Oregon's agricultural landscapes.

"In my new role, I aim to collaborate closely with growers, foresters, and natural resource managers to create sustainable, effective pest prevention strategies that protect farms, forests, and the shared natural heritage of Oregon," she said.



More and more Willamette Valley cities are taking steps to prepare for EAB

Beaverton

In October 2024 Beaverton Urban Forestry was awarded a grant by Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District to start protecting ash street trees against emerald ash borer. About 600 trees a year are being treated over the three-year grant to keep them from becoming infested. So far in 2026 Beaverton has also treated 22 city-maintained natural area trees 20 inches in diameter and larger and planted over 2,000 native trees and shrubs and 60 street trees, the latter with help of volunteers and the non-profit Friends of Trees. Learn more [here](#).

Carlton

In the wake of recent EAB detections in Yamhill County that are uncomfortably close to Carlton, staff in this town of a little over 2,100 people moved quickly to finish writing their EAB response plan.

Hillsboro

Hillsboro is planning to protect 500 healthy ash trees each year along the city's western and southern boundary using systemic injections of insecticide. These are highly effective at guarding against infestation by EAB. This will create a buffer zone against advancing infestations.

A comprehensive tree inventory is also underway ahead of the ash treatments. The inventory includes public and right-of-way trees. Data collected from this effort will help locate all ash tree populations and inform the city's additional EAB response plan phases.

A wood utilization and air curtain incinerator collaboration plan is in its beginning creation phases. The plan will respond to the need for places to take infested ash wood for disposal and longer-term sustainable wood utilization practices. Learn more [here](#).

Portland

Portland has over 95,000 ash trees, including more than 10,000 along city streets and in landscaped parks, about 16,000 on private lots, and an estimated 68,000 in natural areas, such as Oaks Bottom and along the Columbia Slough. The City completed its EAB response plan in 2025 shortly before EAB was first detected inside the city limits. The plan sets forth five goals:

1. Monitor the spread of emerald ash borer
2. Secure funding and build partnerships to support emerald ash borer management
3. Educate the public and local tree care providers about emerald ash borer
4. Slow the spread of emerald ash borer and prioritize public safety and tree preservation
5. Manage ash wood responsibly and sustainably

As a result of this planning effort, the City has been treating all healthy ash trees in park since 2023. In 2026, the City started proactively removing and replacing ash trees in parks that don't qualify for treatment with alternative species. Other key actions from the response plan include continuing to monitor throughout the city with purple prism traps and streamlining the tree permitting process to make it easier for residents with ash street trees or private trees to manage their ash trees. Learn more [here](#).

Salem

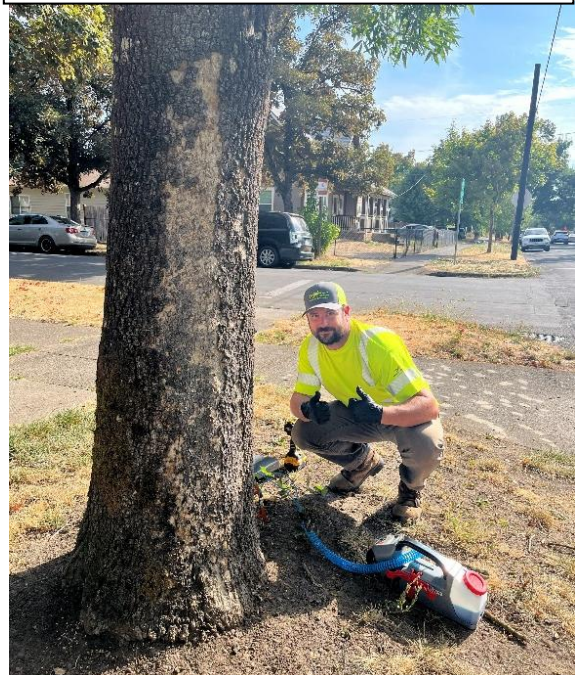
For a number of years Salem has been mapping its street trees so City staff have a clear understanding of the number and location of ash trees that will be affected by emerald ash borer.

The City's response plan calls for:

- treating high-value trees in good condition in priority areas (such as those with low tree cover)
- pre-emptively removing some and replanting
- in certain natural areas where standing dead trees would not represent a hazard to visitors, leaving trees to become snags for wildlife.

Learn more [here](#).

Below: A Salem city staffer prepares to inject an ash tree to protect it from EAB.



Tigard

Shortly after EAB was detected in Forest Grove, Tigard partnered with state agencies (ODF, ODA), local governments, and organizations like Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Clean Water Services (CWS), and Oregon State University (OSU) to discover best practices and response. Urban forestry experts provided Tigard with a management plan that started with an inventory of Tigard's ash trees.

Upon completion of the inventory within key locations, the City adopted a multi-pronged approach to prioritize sensitive areas and protect infrastructure. These include girdling some trees to draw in and trap EAB, limited strategic pre-emptive cutting, chemical treatment to extend the lives of trees that are particularly valuable due to size and location, and continued monitoring.

Learn more [here](#).

Woodburn

Beginning in early 2026, Pudding River Watershed Council staff started using the TreePlotter tree inventory tool the State provides free to communities. Council staff plan to inventory all ash trees located in public rights-of-way and on City-managed properties throughout Woodburn. The project is partially funded through a grant from the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District.

Once finished, a public-facing map of ash trees will help both the City and community members better understand next steps for care and response. So far there appear to be relatively few ash trees in City rights-of-way. In City-managed natural areas, the focus will be on ash trees that could pose a risk to structures, trails, roads, or power lines. More details will be shared once the data collection work is complete. Learn more [here](#).

Research is underway to find out to what degree olive trees can host EAB

The arrival of emerald ash borer in Oregon has cast a shadow over the future of olive cultivation, not just in the Beaver state but also in neighboring California, the nation's largest olive producer.

Olive is in the same family as ash (Oleaceae). Previous studies have shown that EAB larvae can complete their development using olive as a host ([Cipollini et al. 2017](#), [Peterson and Cipollini 2020](#)). Apart from that, there has been limited research on the suitability of olive as an EAB host, making it hard to predict consequences for the olive industry.

In 2017, it was first reported that EAB adults could emerge from artificially infested olive stems of the Manzanilla cultivar. While over half of the larvae reared on this host died, 7 beetles (12%) reached mature prepupal or adult stages ([Cipollini et al. 2017](#)). A subsequent study found successful adult emergence from Manzanilla olive stems, but no emergence from artificially infested Barouni olive (*O. europaea* 'Barouni') stems ([Peterson and Cipollini 2020](#)). Furthermore, there was no larval survival after three months on artificially infested potted Arbequina olives (*O. europaea* 'Arbequina'), even when the trees were girdled ([Peterson and Cipollini 2020](#)).

Researchers speculate that there may be differences in cultivar resistance that are responsible for these results, with Manzanilla olive potentially being more conducive to EAB larval feeding



Above; Researchers are studying how well olive trees may serve as hosts for emerald ash borers.

than other varieties. Or perhaps the larger size of the Manzanilla bolts infested in these studies may correspond with decreased host defenses and lower likelihood of larvae drying out, compared with the smaller Arbequina and Barouni bolts ([Peterson and Cipollini 2020](#)).

Regardless, *EAB larvae are able to survive to adulthood on olive in certain situations*. Adult beetles can also feed on olive foliage until reproductive maturity, though they die sooner and are less fecund than beetles consuming ash foliage ([Peterson et al. 2020](#)). This shows that EAB can complete a full life cycle on olive, although it appears to be a poor host.

No natural infestations of olive have been reported to date, possibly because EAB has not yet reached areas in the U.S. where olive trees are widespread. If larval survival rates are low, it is unlikely that olive trees would serve as a reservoir for EAB.

Publications

- ***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., Snieszko, 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>