

July 2025

Square miles known to be infested with EAB:

Forest Grove – 16.2 Butte Creek/Pudding River – 25

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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Thousand canker disease threatens black walnut trees in Oregon

A tiny insect native to the Southwest U.S. has been taking a heavy toll on black walnut trees throughout the western U.S. and Ohio region, including Oregon since the 1990s. Before then, the walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) was not associated with any significant die-off of walnut trees. In recent decades, though, the beetles have invariably been found to carry the fungus *Geosmithia*, which is believed to cause the disease.

Drought was originally thought to be why black walnut trees were declining and dying, with the beetle as a secondary pest. The documented presence of a canker-producing fungal pathogen



Above: Walnut twig borer. Photo credit: Steven Valley, bugwood.org

carried by the twig beetle, and the occurrence of black walnut death on irrigated sites and in non-drought years, all suggest the fungus causes thousand cankers disease.

P. juglandis has been recorded in Portland since 1997, has been commonly captured in funnel traps in The Dalles since 2004, and is suspected of being associated with recent widespread death of *Juglans* ssp. in the Willamette Valley. Where the insect has been found, the majority of black walnut trees have since died, so finding the tiny beetles is key to early detection of the disease in new areas.

Walnut species appear to vary in how susceptible they are to the *Geosmithia* fungus. Black walnut (*Juglans.nigra*) is very susceptible, with large cankers developing in response to inoculation. Other species, including Arizona walnut and little walnut (*J. macrocarpa*), develop more restricted cankers following artificial inoculation.

Effective controls for thousand cankers disease have not yet been identified. Rapid detection, removal of infected trees, and disposal of the infected trees are the main means of managing the disease. It's recommended to not move black walnut wood in order to slow the spread of walnut twig beetles to uninfested areas. Learn more about this disease [here](#).

Adult cinnabar moths get mistaken for spotted lanternflies

After the media reported someone had called in a sighting of a juvenile spotted lanternfly in the Buckman neighborhood of SE Portland this spring, the state's invasive species hotline began to receive a number of calls from people thinking they'd seen adults of that species. Turns out, though, that adult spotted lanternflies don't emerge until late summer – usually starting around the second week of August and peaking in September.

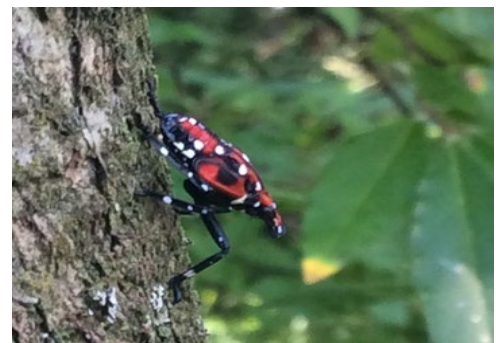
Instead, state entomologists say most of what callers reported seeing over the past few weeks

were cinnabar moths (see photo on left). These are beneficial insects brought over from Europe in the 1960s to control the introduced invasive weed [tansy ragwort](#). Tansy ragwort is highly toxic to cattle and horses. Grazing on even small amounts can fatally damage the animals' livers. Even the plant's nectar is toxic. Honey made by bees from tansy ragwort's yellow flowers can sicken people who consume it.

Cinnabar moths are harmless to humans, livestock, and pets. Their larvae feed only on tansy ragwort. Adult cinnabar moths are seen in May and June. Their red wings partly



Above: Adult cinnabar moth. /
Photo: Eric Coombs, Oregon
Department of Agriculture,
Bugwood.org



Above: A spotted lanternfly nymph. /
Photo: Sara Lalk, Clemson University,
Bugwood.org

resemble those of spotted lanternfly. Just remember that adults of the two species are not present in Oregon at the same time of year. After four visual survey efforts, ODA has not yet substantiated the iNaturalist report of SLF in Portland, Oregon, though more surveys are planned for later this summer.

Salem readies for EAB's arrival by treating ash trees in good condition

The City of Salem might be the model for how a mid-sized urban area prepares for the arrival of the tree-killing emerald ash borer. The city inventoried all of its street and park trees in the last five years. Last fall staff divided them into those in good condition (about three quarters fell into this category) or a less healthy class. Starting this summer, the City is notifying homeowners that ash trees in good condition along their street or in their local park will be treated with a systemic injection to protect them from EAB.

Salem's Urban Forester Milan Davis expects at least 550 ash trees will be treated this year, with a similar number next year. Treating these trees will protect them from the damage and tree mortality caused by EAB. Ash trees in poor condition along streets or in parks are gradually being removed and replanted.

With infestations of EAB known to be as close as Woodburn, less than 20 miles away, Salem has set more than a dozen EAB traps around the city. They also plan to inventory Oregon ash growing in Salem's natural areas. That will help them understand where replanting efforts with native species other than ash might have to take place.

ODF held EAB workshop in Clackamas County with Clackamas SWCD and OSU Extension

Twenty-three people attended a June 6th EAB workshop in Clackamas County put on by five trainers from ODF, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and OSU. Attendees went



from 40 percent saying they had little to no familiarity with EAB and 60 percent being only somewhat familiar to 60 percent reporting being very familiar and 20 percent being extremely familiar with the pest.

Photo at left: Attendees at a June 6 workshop in Clackamas County examine a sticky trap used to capture adult EAB. Photo courtesy of Sarah Cameron, OSU Extension.

Marion SWCD to train CAREcorps youth to identify signs of EAB

A park in Keizer, Ore., will be where high-school students in the service program CAREcorps will be taught to identify EAB and signs of its presence in infested ash trees. The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District is organizing the training.

CAREcorps is a free, three-week intensive service and leadership program dedicated to making Salem greener and more connected. Participants give 40+ hours of community service in July while developing leadership skills, making lasting friendships, and creating a tangible impact on public spaces. Those in the Salem-Keizer Public School District also gain a 0.5 elective credit.

The program was started by Salem parents who lost their son in infancy and dedicated funds they felt they would have spent raising him on helping youth in their community.

Metro, Clean Water Services team up to slow EAB spread near Forest Grove

Clean Water Services (CWS) and Metro have joined forces this summer to lure EAB adult females into laying their eggs on ash trees in the Forest Grove area that have been injected with the systemic insecticide emamectin benzoate, called a “trap tree”. Any larvae that hatch will be killed by the insecticide within the tree, reducing the overall population of the next generation of EAB. The insecticide that is injected poses little to no risk to other insects or wildlife.

Randy Lawrence, Water Resources Program Manager for CWS, said 66 Oregon ash trees at six sites were picked to be treated and then girdled. Girdling distresses the trees, making them more attractive to adult EABs. Eventually the trees die from being girdled. Lawrence says the trees chosen were not near trails, parking lots or neighboring properties because after they die they will be left as standing snags to create wildlife habitat. The cost of the project is being split between CWS and Metro.

The project’s goal is to gain more time for non-susceptible replacement trees to grow and start shading streams before too many Oregon ash are killed by EAB.

“The more time we have to keep Oregon ash shading streams, the better we’ll be able to maintain moderate stream temperatures until young trees of other species we plant to replace the ash begin shading those waters,” said Lawrence.

The six sites (the first four have confirmed EAB presence) are:

- Fernhill Wetlands next to Forest Grove
- Gales Creek in Forest Grove
- Zurcher farm near Forest Grove
- Carpenter Creek Natural Area near Forest Grove south of Highway 47
- Maroon Ponds south of Forest Grove
- King’s Bend along the Tualatin River at the south end of Cornelius

OSU offers free webinar on early detection of invasive species

Oregon State University is offering a free webinar on Tuesday, July 8 called *Intruder Alert: Early Detection of Invasive Species*. The one-hour class runs from noon to 1 p.m. It is part of the OSU Master Gardener Program's *Level Up Growing Oregon* Gardeners webinar series.

OSU research plant pathologist Ebba Peterson will explain why early detection is key in managing invasive species. Peterson will highlight a few pests to look out for in Oregon and share resources for learning more about them and how to report sightings. Register [here](#).

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by Jul 5, 2025 to Brooke Edmunds: Brooke.Edmunds@oregonstate.edu or [503-877-2505](tel:503-877-2505) ([Link opens phone app](#))

Jackson Bottom Wetlands held its first Nature Invaders community event in May

Jackson Bottom Wetlands held its first Nature Invaders Community Event on May 24th to educate the public about emerald ash borer.

As part of the event, the Wetlands had an emerald ash borer costume created (photo attached) and a storybook, which was illustrated by a local artist. The storybook is displayed along the upland "Storybook Trail" at the Nature Center. Ash trees in the Wetlands are known to be infested with EAB, so the event helped visitors understand the threat and the response to it.



Publications

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>