OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS

July 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:

EAB is confirmed in Silverton and Tualatin and just outside Newberg

Emerald ash borer was confirmed in June in at least three new Willamette Valley communities:

- in a parking lot right outside Newberg
- in a shopping center parking lot just east of I-5 in Tualatin
- at a private residence in Silverton.

The new detections are within the existing EAB quarantine zone covering the five counties where this pest has been found so far. Counties within the quarantined zone are Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill.

Photo below: Tell-tale serpentine feeding galleries left by EAB larvae were found in this ash tree just outside Newberg in June.

Oregon Department of Forestry EAB Support Specialist Matt Mills said, "we have long known that EAB would spread from infested sites to nearby areas, so these new detections are not unexpected. Experience from other states shows that four to five years or so after first being detected EAB spreads from pockets of infested ash trees and becomes much more widespread over an entire county or metropolitan area."

All three reports were made by private individuals who recognized ash trees that were showing signs of EAB infestation and knew to report them on the invasive species hotline at https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org.

Kat Bethea, also an EAB Support Specialist with the Oregon Department of Forestry, said this shows the success of four years of outreach to the public in northwest Oregon with information about EAB and what to expect and where to report sightings.

Mills and Bethea have contacted dozens of communities within 15 miles of the new detection sites. They alerted local leaders to how close EAB has been confirmed to them and offered technical advice and assistance in preparing for EAB's impact.

EAB continues to spread outward from large existing infestations in Washington County and east of Woodburn. There have been several positive reports close to these known infestations which have only slightly increased the known infested zone, unlike the new reports from Silverton, Tualatin and near Newberg. All confirmed positives are on the Oregon EAB Map - https://oregon-eab-geo.hub.arcgis.com/pages/survey-monitoring

Peak emergence of EAB adults came earlier this year at end of June

Since EAB was first detected in Oregon in 2022, most adults have usually emerged by mid-July. This year that peak emergence arrived at the end of June, according to ODF EAB Support Specialist Matt Mills.

"The mild winter and warm spring definitely sped development of larvae into adults," Mills said.

While the majority of adults are flying now, stragglers will continue to emerge through the rest of summer. This is one reason felling ash trees during the months of emergence is not recommended, said Mills. "It could result in adult beetles flying to more distant, uninfested trees. Wait till November to cut down any ash trees slated for removal."

Photo above: An adult emerald ash borer emerges from an ash tree in King City in

Trees for the urban forests of tomorrow is topic of July 15 symposium

There's still time to register to attend "Growing the Urban Forests of Tomorrow: A Nursery Symposium" Wednesday, July 15 at Oregon State University.

The symposium will bring together nursery growers, urban foresters, and tree professionals for conversation and collaboration focused on production of resilient trees to replace those which will die from EAB, other pests and diseases, and climate extremes. From best management practices to climate-ready species and supply challenges, this symposium is designed to spark ideas, share knowledge, and strengthen connections across the nursery and urban forestry communities.

This event is intended for nursery professionals (including growers, technical specialists, specialty nurseries, production nurseries), arborists and urban forestry professionals, landscape professionals (design, install, architect), utility industry, and others across the tree care and production industry.

Breakfast, lunch, snacks, and refreshments will be provided. ISA CEUs have been applied for.

Hosts: Oregon Department Forestry and Oregon State University in partnership with the Oregon Association of Nurseries.

Location: LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University, 875 S.W. 26th St., Corvallis.

Registration: $25 (scholarship options available upon request); student registration is $15.

Register now

Webinar on July 9 will explore a free tree-canopy tool for those managing urban forests

The Urban and Community Program at Oregon Dept. of Forestry has announced an upcoming TreePlotter Canopy webinar on Thursday, July 9th from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Pacific.

Presenters will introduce the state's free-to-use TreePlotter Canopy software tool to cities and other partners managing urban forests.

Learn how this tool can help you to:

- make data-informed decisions on expanding access to the benefits of trees in your city
- strengthen climate resilience
- prepare for emergency management
- improve forest health, and more.

A healthy urban forest doesn't happen by chance; it takes thoughtful planning, community investment, and effective management.

Please join us for an introduction to this tool and a question-and-answer session at the end to support the important work you do! To sign up, please fill out the TreePlotter Canopy Registration Form.

Unavailable to attend the live event? No problem! Register, and ODF will record the webinar and share it with those unable to attend the live event.

Marion SWCD experts to give virtual presentation for landowners Aug. 7

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District as part of its First Friday series will devote the Aug. 7 session to covering topics of interest to landowners looking to plan for recovery after emerald ash borer kills their ash trees. Topics will include wood-waste management, site preparation for replanting with alternate species, and weed management. The District's Natural Area Specialist Chelsea Blank and Native and Invasive Plant Species Specialist Sarah Hamilton will give the free virtual presentation.

When: Noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7

To sign up go to https://www.marionswcd.net/events/

Canadian researchers find no ash larger than 4" in diameter survived more than seven years after EAB's initial attack

Within seven years of EAB initially attacking an ash tree in a monitored Canadian forest, none larger than 4 inches in diameter (10 centimeters) survived. The findings were published in the May 2026 issue of the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research.*

In 2010 Canadian researchers set up 46 long-term monitoring plots across four regions in eastern Canada, two urban and two agricultural. The plots included both riparian and woodland habitats.

Researchers note that EAB shifted to attacking smaller host trees only after large ash trees were depleted. Among regenerating stems, 42% were infested by EAB at least once and 14% experienced five or more infestations.

After large ash trees in the plots were killed off, EAB larval densities fell, suggesting reduced carrying capacity in post-invasion forests.

Find the full study here.

Webinar highlights finding of elevated resistance in green and white ash

In some forests in the eastern U.S., a few trees remain alive with healthy crowns years after EAB has killed the majority of ash trees. These trees, called lingering ash, have been identified, replicated by grafting, and screened for resistance to EAB larvae in controlled greenhouse bioassays.

A webinar recorded in May 2026 highlights a study showing some lingering ash trees perform better at killing EAB larvae or reducing the average weight of the larvae than others and that these defenses are likely inheritable. These results provide additional evidence that traits associated with EAB resistance in lingering ash have a genetic basis, the essential requirement for an EA- resistance breeding program.

Watch the webinar here.

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://cdnsciencepub.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. Johsnon, 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