OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



June 2025

Square miles known to be infested with EAB:

Forest Grove – 16.2 Butte Creek/Pudding River – 49

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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Free EAB workshop being offered June 6 for Clackamas landowners

The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon State University Extension are partnering to provide an Emerald Ash Borer Workshop. This free workshop is designed for small landowners in Clackamas County, but anyone is welcome to attend. Register here.

Friday, June 6 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

22055 S Beavercreek Rd, Beavercreek, OR 97004

ODF to provide EAB information on June 7 at Silver Falls State Park

A staff person from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry will be on hand to share information about emerald ash borer with visitors coming to Silver Falls State Park on State Parks Day, which is Saturday, June 7. Admission to all state parks is free on that day. This is the second year that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. had collaborated with ODF in the effort to educate visitors about the importance of Oregon ash to the environment and the threat it faces from EAB. Not transporting firewood long distances is a key message park visitors will take away.

EAB training for municipal staff is scheduled for June 12 in McMinnville

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, ODF, and OSU Forestry Extension are inviting staff from cities, towns and parks and recreation districts to attend a training on ash trees and emerald ash borer. The training will be held on Thursday, June 12 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in McMinnville, Ore. Register at https://beav.es/NaY

Trapping underway to detect extent of MOB presence in Oregon

More than 80 percent of 100 traps are now in place that the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture plans to use to find the extent of Mediterranean oak borer presence in Oregon. Delimitation traps have been placed in a rectangle surrounding the sites where MOB infestations have been confirmed in the Willamette Valley, centered on the Wilsonville area and Troutdale. These are designed to find how big an area the invasive pest may have infested.

Detection traps have been placed widely around the state with natural stands of native oaks to check for any new infestations that might arise. MOB is a tiny ambrosia beetle that is most often first noticed when oak trees begin to experience dieback. Oregonians are asked to keep an eye on their oak trees - especially Oregon white oak (Quercus garryana) - for such dieback. Look for telltale sawdust (called "frass") pushed out by the insect as it forms galleries under the bark.

Suspected infestations can be reported along with photos at the Oregon Invasives Hotline at



Above: An Oregon white oak infested with Mediterranean oak borer at Wilsonville High School showing signs of dieback from a vascular wilt caused by a fungus the borer carries. Photo credit: Georgia McAlister, City of Wilsonville.

https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/reports/create or by calling toll-free to 1-866-INVADER. With adult EAB and other pests set to emerge in coming weeks, ODF's Invasive Species Specialist Wyatt Williams reminds Oregonians to report all sightings of suspected invasive plants, insects or animals to the hotline.

"We strongly promote the hotline to ODF field foresters, ODF clients, and the public for reporting key invasive forest pests, such as emerald ash borer, sudden oak death, Mediterranean oak borer, as well as invasive noxious weeds," Williams said." This is the preferred system because it creates a digital record and map of a suspected pest, enabling rapid information sharing and communication among responding agencies, rather than the confusion and chaos that can result when multiple staff receive and respond to emails and phone calls from the public reporting suspected sightings."

EAB biocontrol agents are being released in Yamhill, Marion and Clackamas counties for the first time

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) has added Marion, Clackamas, and Yamhill counties to its biological control program against emerald ash borer. Biological control is a pest



Above: The stingless parasitoid wasp Tetrastichus planipennisi, one of three that attack EAB larvae or eggs.

management strategy that uses naturally occurring predators and parasites to control invasive species. ODA has been working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to release three species of "stingless" parasitic wasps in Washington County in 2023 and 2024 after EAB was detected in Forest Grove in 2022. These parasitoid wasps can't sting people or animals and are harmless to Oregon's native wildlife.

Marion, Clackamas, and Yamhill counties have now been added to the program since EAB was confirmed in all three of those counties last summer. As of June 1st, releases have already started. Releases will continue through October.

In eastern states the wasps have been shown to reduce EAB populations anywhere from 20 percent up to 80 percent, helping slow EAB's spread. The wasps can be used in conjunction with some insecticide treatments, but caution and planning is needed.

The wasps were produced and supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, Mich. For parasitoid information please call 866-322-4512.

EAB traps are being placed ahead of adult emergence later this month

Emerald ash borer larvae are maturing and expected to start emerging in the Willamette Valley from June 7-21. Emergence continues through July, then begins to taper down as fall approaches. This <u>map</u> projects when adults are likely to emerge in various areas based on temperatures. To see where the adults are flying to, about 20 cooperating agencies are placing an anticipated 300 traps. To date, here are some of the main agencies placing traps, accounting for a third of the projected total:

- ODF 49 traps
- City of Salem 15 traps
- Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District 18 traps
- Institute of Applied Ecology 23 traps

Canadian study supports value of slowing ash mortality early on but then phasing out treatment in favor of replanting with non-ash species

Up till now, most cost-benefit analyses of emerald ash borer management choices have focused on early infestations. Now a new study published in the April 2025 *Journal of Economic Entomology* has tested the options for late-stage EAB management based on ecological and economic objectives. Canadian researchers evaluated tree counts, basal area, and urban forest value under seven different management scenarios. They considered variations in if and when ash trees were treated, removed, and replanted with non-ash species.

The simulation was applied to the remaining ash population in Ontario, Canada, where tree coring and yearly assessments found that injected ash trees have reduced growth rates and are declining in condition.

The results demonstrate that injections help preserve the ash population for a time, maximize basal area, minimize spikes in annual costs, and reduce cumulative costs early in the 20-year study period. However, long-term cost reduction comes from eventually winding down basal injections, removing ash as they die from EAB, and replanting with non-vulnerable species.

Be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly in SE Portland

This spring a report was made to the Oregon Invasives Hotline about a spotted lanternfly nymph (an immature stage) being seen in SE Portland in the vicinity of Colonel Summers Park in the Buckman neighborhood. Staff from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture promptly conducted visual surveys of the park and surrounding blocks but didn't find any spotted lanternfly nymphs, adults, nor eggs.



Cody Holthouse with ODA says his agency is placing circle traps designed to catch nymphs climbing up trees, and will continue to periodically survey the area visually. "If anyone happens to be in the Buckman neighborhood, we'd appreciate them keeping an eye out for spotted lanternfly. If seen, photograph it and report it via the hotline," he said.

Spotted lanternfly has already spread to 18 states in the

eastern U.S. since it was first detected in this country in 2014. It feeds on a wide range of plants, including agricultural crops and hardwood trees.

Here's what to look for according to federal sources:

- Nymphs (juvenile spotted lanternflies) are black with white spots and turn red as they develop.
- Adults, roughly 1-inch long and 1/2-inch wide, have a yellow, black-barred abdomen. With large, visually striking wings, adult spotted lanternflies can be easier to spot than other pests. They have brown forewings with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear. Their hind wings are scarlet with black spots at the front and white and black bars at the rear.

Eggs

Newly laid egg masses (holding 30-50 eggs) resemble wet, gray putty before turning dull and brown, mirroring a smear of cracked mud. The 1-inch long egg masses can be seen in fall, winter, and spring on a variety of smooth surfaces, such as trees, bricks, stones, fences, grills, equipment, and vehicles.

Find more information from OSU about spotted lanternfly and photos of its life stages <u>here</u>.

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/in

https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/index.shtml