

OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



March 2025

Square miles known to be infested with EAB:

Forest Grove – 16.2 Butte Creek/Pudding River – 23.6

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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ODA is publishing this month a comprehensive new guide to MOB

Along with northern California, Oregon has the unfortunate distinction of being the first place in North America where Mediterranean oak borer has been detected. This tiny pest spreads a fungus to trees it infests. This fungus causes a vascular wilt that can kill Oregon white oaks. To help inform landowners and other land managers about the threat MOB poses, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture has put out a new pamphlet available for download on the ODA website sometime after mid-March.



Federal funding for Oregon's invasive species efforts is uncertain for now

With the Trump administration seeking to slash spending across many federal agencies, the future of federal support for Oregon's attempts to eradicate or control invasive pests is currently uncertain.

Cody Holthouse is with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and leads Oregon's Interagency Task Force on EAB and MOB. He says, "We're trying to document the distribution of Mediterranean oak borer infestation in Oregon and facilitate research that can mitigate damage to Oregon's white oaks into the future. Much of this effort has been possible because of money provided by the US Forest Service, for which Oregon is very grateful. We are also hopeful that we will receive continued support for release of EAB biological control agents in Oregon, parasitoid

wasp species provided by USDA APHIS that can kill EAB and help slow its spread across Oregon. We will continue to prepare for the coming season as we wait to learn what may happen to federal funding for these efforts.”

An ash inventory and monitoring system developed in the Midwest has been adapted for use on the West Coast

The dominant ash forest inventory and monitoring system that's used in the Midwest has now been adapted to make it accessible to West Coast private forest landowners and managers,

including the consulting foresters who assist them. The forest measurement methods and their interpretation were demonstrated on three common Oregon ash forest conditions. Thanks to Dr. Dave Shaw, Katie Hill, and Janet Donnelly of Oregon State University for their contributions to this project. The effort was funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service. You can access the inventory and monitoring system [here](#).



Left: A team measures trees and records data in a plot of Oregon ash. Photo credit: David Shaw, Oregon State University

Mid-valley soil and water conservation districts to hold EAB workshop

The soil and water conservation districts in Clackamas, Marion and Yamhill counties are hosting a workshop on emerald ash borer in Woodburn on Thursday, March 13. The workshop is designed to provide landowners with Oregon ash trees with information about what to expect and how to manage EAB infestation on their land. EAB was detected in all three counties in 2023. If interested, register [here](#).

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District is also partnering with OSU on an EAB workshop scheduled for June 6. That workshop will be held in Beaver Creek.

ODF's EAB specialists to present at Clackamas Tree School on March 22

Alison Herrell and Matt Mills from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry will be teaching forest landowners about EAB at the Clackamas Tree School in Oregon City on March 22. A popular event, registration is already closed for this year.

Herrell and Mills will give a comprehensive overview of:

- EAB biology and history in the U.S.
- Oregon's response to EAB
- planning strategies for managing EAB in different environments.

They will also demonstrate how to apply tree-saving systemic insecticide to a tree on campus.

OSU Extension hosting April 11 workshop in Eugene for small landowners

OSU Extension in cooperation with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry is holding a workshop April 11 for landowners on the management considerations of emerald ash borer in the Willamette Valley. The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to noon. It will include classroom instruction and a mock-EAB demonstration trail to practice recognizing signs of EAB infestation. Although targeted at small landowners, it is open to anyone. Cost is \$10. To register please go to <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/events/emerald-ash-borer-training-landowners-lane>

Larch trees in Idaho face a new threat in the form of a wood-boring moth

The *Capital Press* has reported that a moth known to have been in Montana for over a century has in recent years begun attacking larch trees in Idaho (see article [here](#)). The moth (*Cydia laricana* complex) feeds on the tops of young western larch trees (*Larix occidentalis*) three to 14 inches in diameter and no more than 30 years old, according to a [fact sheet](#) produced by the Idaho Dept. of Lands. It was not previously known to cause deaths in Idaho's larch trees, which is why scientists are concerned. Damage to larch trees from the moth has also been seen in eastern Washington State.

Western larch is also native to Oregon. The species can be found growing from mountain forests of northeast Oregon all the way to the eastern slopes



Larch in eastern Washington showing damage believed to have been caused by *Cydia* moths. Photo credit: Melissa Fischer, USDA

of the Cascades. A deciduous conifer, larch turn yellow in fall, making them easy to spot in the mixed stands they grow in. Larch are long lived trees, and considered an important alternative to Douglas-fir, true firs, and pines due to their resistance to many root rots that trouble other conifers.

Larch wood is hard, heavy, and decay resistant. It has been used in construction, railroad ties, mine timbers, and telephone poles, as well as for veneer.

Asian longhorned beetle eliminated in two states but is still in four

Since its initial detection in New York, Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestations have been discovered in Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Ohio and South Carolina. Fortunately, the populations in both Illinois and New Jersey have been fully eradicated. Infestations currently remain in New York, Massachusetts, Ohio and South Carolina, where regulations are in place and eradication efforts are underway.

Although adult ALB can fly for 400 yards in search of host trees, they usually remain on or near the tree they emerged from and are slow to spread at the beginning of an infestation. This makes early detection of new infestations critical in managing this pest. Since this is a wood boring insect, the larger threat of spread is the larval stage, when the insects are contained within wood and are not visible.

Larvae can infest a variety of items, including firewood, solid wood packing material, woody debris and trimmings, branches, logs, stumps and lumber. Infested items can be transported over long distances and begin new infestations. This makes it important for Oregonians to limit transport of firewood and wood waste to within 10 miles of where the tree it comes from was felled. Find an ALB fact sheet [here](#).



Above: Asian longhorned beetle attack and kill many species of trees, including maple, elm, birch, katsura, willow, and horsechestnut. Photo credit: Steven Valley, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, bugwood.org

Register now to observe air curtain incinerator demonstration burns

Air curtain incinerators (ACIs) are a much cleaner alternative to burning wood waste than pile burning. Tests last year by Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality showed the mobile incinerators produce far fewer emissions (up to 93% fewer) than pile burning. ODF has contracted with DEQ permitted ACI operators to hold a number of demonstration burns this spring (see below)

- March 25 – ODF Seed Orchard in St. Paul will host a demonstration burn for ODF staff, nursery owners, and orchardists. ODF plans to burn wood waste from trees it thinned from its Willamette Valley ponderosa pine orchard.
- April 9 – Clean Water Services will host a demonstration burn at its Tualatin River Farm property outside Hillsboro starting at 10 a.m. For tickets to the event, please click [here](#). For general questions about the burn, contact Clean Water Services' Julie Cortez at cortezj@cleanwaterservices.org
- May 13 – Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District will host a demonstration burn at the Scappoose Airport. The Airport plans to burn English hawthorn that has invaded airport property. Sign up to attend here: <https://rb.gy/lzmy6d>



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 sitings

www.OregonEAB.com

Mediterranean oak borer fact sheet

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/fact-sheet-mediterranean-oak-borer.pdf>

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>