



May 2023

Trees surveyed to date: 9,087 (95% are trees in Washington County)

of trees with confirmed EAB presence: 42 (unchanged since April)

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and partners wrestle with how to respond to looming loss of Oregon ash in wetlands and streamsides

Oregon ash is an important tree species that's been heavily relied upon to revitalize parts of the Tualatin River watershed and other wetlands in the state. Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) and their partners use a variety of tactics to improve the health of the Tualatin River, its tributaries, and the land in between. Shading waterways by planting trees and shrubs is a major goal of this conservation effort. Until recently, TSWCD relied heavily on replanting with Oregon's native ash species for its resilience to both wet and dry soils. Read how they are rethinking their options in this [recent article](#).



Photo at left: **The Willamette Valley's forested wetlands are dominated by Oregon ash trees.** *Photo by Rob Emanuel with Clean Water Services.*

Oregon researchers are using temperature to estimate emergence of EAB

Emerald ash borer larvae spend the winter comfortably inside of ash trees getting ready to turn into adults. With the approach of longer days and warmer weather, the insects prepare to make D-shaped exit holes, fly out and mate. They then leave in search of an ash tree on which to lay their eggs.

ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl and ODF Monitoring Specialist David Showalter are using a tool that looks at spring temperatures to estimate when the first EAB insects will emerge and when the bulk of the population will follow. The tool was developed by USPest.org, headed by Len Coop at the Oregon State University Integrated Pest Management Center.

"Depending on temperatures, emergence may start as early as the latter half of May, with the majority of insects emerging in June and July," said Buhl. "Unseasonably cool temperatures this spring in western Oregon look like they may delay emergence until the beginning of June."



ODF offering EAB traps to cities, counties and land management agencies



To help cities, counties and other land management agencies better track when and where emerald ash borer might be in their area, the Oregon Department of Forestry is offering sticky-sided traps that can be hung in ash trees in hopes of capturing the adult insect during the brief summer months when it is flying in search of a host tree. Because of the limited number of traps, they are not available to individual homeowners. Contact ODF's Invasive Species Specialist Wyatt Williams if interested at [wyatt.williams@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:w Wyatt.williams@odf.oregon.gov)

DEQ to conduct test burn in air curtain incinerator to gauge emissions

Tons of wood are expected to need disposal in coming years once large numbers of Oregon's ash trees begin to be killed by EAB. State and local agencies and community groups are working to find solutions ranging from urban lumber milling after treatment to chipping for mulch to burning to create biochar.

Burning produces smoke. Air curtain incinerators appear to produce less smoke than pile burning. But how much less has not been scientifically measured. To answer the question, the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality is holding a three-day test burn of ash wood in an air curtain incinerator in late May in collaboration with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Clean Water Services and a host of partners. Emissions will be measured, providing useful information to the agency on how to regulate such disposal operations to minimize smoke exposure to Oregon residents. To learn more about this process, visit DEQ's [Air Curtain Incinerator Emissions Testing web page](#).

Evan Elderbrock takes up task of helping local communities prepare for EAB in his new role at ODF

Recent University of Oregon graduate Evan Elderbrock is busy in his new role at ODF reaching out to communities in and around Washington County to see what help they need to prepare for EAB. He has already contacted a score of communities and is looking to find resources to help some with conducting tree inventories.

Elderbrock holds a PhD in Landscape Architecture with an emphasis in Environmental Justice and GIS. He is based at ODF's Salem headquarters.





Registration still open for June 1 conference on EAB and other tree pests

There are still a few tickets left for Oregon's major Urban and Community Forestry Conference. The all-day conference is Thursday, June 1 at Portland's World Forestry Center. It is put on by the Oregon Department of Forestry and USDA Forest Service in collaboration with Oregon Community Trees.

The conference's theme – *What's Bugging Our Trees?* – will focus on insect pests that threaten Oregon's trees, including the recently arrived emerald ash borer.

There will also be hour-long panel discussions on:

- The pros and cons of treatments versus tree removal for emerald ash borer
- Options for what to do with the wood from pest-killed trees
- Good choices for replacement trees for natural areas and yards, parks and streets, and how to ensure their availability

Speakers

- Forest Entomologist Karen Ripley, the USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Monitoring and Invasive Insects Program Manager, will answer why Oregon is seeing more and more insect pests and what to expect as the climate changes.
- ODF Invasive Species Specialist Wyatt Williams will discuss EAB and other looming insect threats to Oregon's trees and what can be done to slow their spread
- Research Forester Geoffrey Donovan, with the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station will discuss the negative impacts on human health of canopy loss from pests like EAB and the health benefits of increasing canopy
- Russell Clark with PlanIt Geo, LLC, who'll discuss how to inventory trees

Regular tickets are \$170. Students enrolled in an Oregon high school, college or university can register for \$80. *Price includes a boxed lunch and social hour beverages and snacks.*

To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whats-bugging-our-trees-coping-with-emerald-ash-borer-in-the-pnw-tickets-483429178687>

SW Washington to host half-day conference on urban readiness for EAB

If you can't make it to the Oregon conference on EAB and other tree-killing insect pests, consider attending the free Municipal Urban Forest Pest Readiness Workshop on Monday, June 6 in Vancouver.

Time: 12 to 4 p.m.

Location: Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98661

Hosted by Washington Dept. of Natural Resources and the Washington Invasive Species Council, the workshop is geared to help city staff and tree care contractors assess pest readiness, document, and plan a path forward to becoming more prepared.



Register at [Municipal Urban Forest Pest Readiness Workshop Registration \(office.com\)](#)

Report an EAB sighting in Oregon

To report a suspected EAB sighting in Oregon or for news releases and other EAB information, go to the Oregon Invasive Species Council's website at oregoneab.com.



Publications

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

EAB monitoring guidance

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/eab-monitoring-guidance.pdf>

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/SurveyTreatment/Pages/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx>

Oregon Dept. of Forestry

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthhealth.aspx>

OSU Extension

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/emerald-ash-borer-resources>

USFS Forest Health Protection

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/home/?cid=fseprd1046323>