

OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



May 2024

Square miles known to be infested with EAB: 10.4

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 with the collaboration of other state, regional, federal, Tribal, and local agencies and organizations. To subscribe, email jim.gersbach@odf.oregon.gov

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Eighty EAB-infested trees removed in Forest Grove in April

Last month, 80 EAB-infested ash trees were felled in Forest Grove to prevent the larvae inside from emerging as adults and flying to new trees. Part of the State's Slow the Spread effort, the removals were paid for by an Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) grant to the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA). ODF had been given the money by the USDA Forest Service. Thanks to the grants, the work was carried out at no cost to homeowners.

ODA hired local contractors to do the felling and chipping of the trees. Chunks too large to chip were burned in the ODA's new air curtain incinerator in a nearby part of Forest Grove.



Protective insecticide treatment was not an option for these trees, which were already heavily damaged by EAB before the infestation was detected in them. It is recommended to promptly remove ash trees that have been heavily damaged by EAB (more than 30% canopy loss), since dying ash trees quickly become brittle and hazardous to people and property.

This fall, ODF plans to plant a diverse mix of trees not susceptible to EAB to replace those removed.

At left: Contract works clean up what's left of an ash tree in a residential neighborhood in Forest Grove. It was one of 80 infested trees cut down.

EAB adults are now expected to start emerging in first half of June

Forecasting when adult EABs will emerge depends a lot on how many warm spring days we get. Models used by ODF indicate that some adults may emerge this year early in the second week of June, with peak emergence in early July. Although adults themselves cause only minor damage to ash foliage, females can fly up to a couple miles and spread the population to new areas. Because larvae can emerge even from downed logs and firewood, it is important to properly treat or dispose of ash material prior to adult emergence. Effective methods include burning, chipping to pieces less than 1 inch in any dimension, or heat-treating wood in a kiln for at least an hour at 160 degrees Fahrenheit). Adult emergence usually ends by late September or early October depending on how soon cold weather arrives. Adults are small and hard to see. EAB is usually detected by noticing canopy decline in ash trees, telltale D-shaped exit holes, cracks in ash bark, or the flaking of bark by woodpeckers trying to get at the larvae. Read more at [eab-monitoring-guidance.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#)

Cornelius prepares to treat street trees to protect them from EAB

Cornelius is so far the only Oregon town outside Forest Grove to have found EAB within its city limits. State and local officials believe many of the town's healthy ash street trees are in good condition and can be protected from emerald ash borer if treated this year with systemic injections of emamectin benzoate. City staff are working with the private firm SavATree to provide the treatments. These are expected to begin later in May after trees have leafed out and finished flowering. Experience with treating ash trees with emamectin benzoate injections in the eastern U.S. has shown it provides excellent (95% or more) protection if applied before EAB attacks or at the earliest stages of infestation.

At right: ODF's Lilah Gonen and Alison Herrell in Cornelius answer a reporter's questions about how healthy ash trees can be protected from EAB before infestation.



Canada confirms that EAB has made its way to British Columbia

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer in Vancouver, British Columbia. These are the first detections of EAB larvae in western Canada.

Local, provincial and CFIA officials are collaborating to determine the extent of the infestation in Vancouver and how to slow the spread. The CFIA has restricted the movement of any ash material, such as logs, branches, and woodchips, and all species of firewood from the affected sites in Vancouver. Property owners in the affected area have been notified of the restrictions.



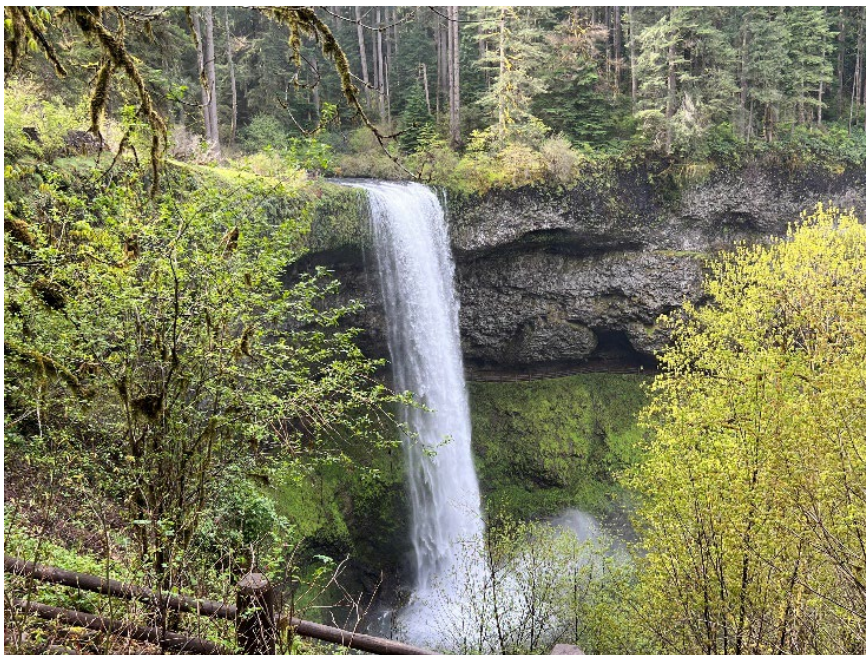
EAB is currently found in parts of six Canadian provinces. Officials say it is spreading to new areas through the movement of firewood and wood chips not ground small enough (less than 1 inch in size).

Tigard-Tualatin students try their hand at hanging EAB traps

A dozen high school students from Cascade Education Corps (CEC) recently got a first-hand look at how to hang traps to monitor the spread of EAB.

CEC is an experiential education program offered through a partnership between the Northwest Regional Education Service District and the Tigard-Tualatin School District. It provides underserved youth with the knowledge, skills, resources, and confidence to be life-long environmental stewards. Students in CEC spend three days per week doing field work on restoration projects sponsored by Tree for All partners, including Clean Water Services, Friends of Trees, and The Wetlands Conservancy.

Read more about CEC at <https://www.jointreeforall.org/blog/2018/5/17/cascade-education-corps-students-connecting-to-nature-community-and-self>



Silver Falls State Park to offer EAB walks in local ash grove June 1

The Oregon Dept. of Parks and Recreation (OPRD) is collaborating with ODF to offer free educational walks to an ash grove in Silver Falls State Park on Saturday, June 1. Admission is free to all state parks then in celebration of State Parks Day. The walks will include how to identify native Oregon ash, the important role the species plays in Oregon's wetland ecology, and how the trees and the habitat they create are at risk from emerald ash borer.

Pocket guides for identifying EAB are available from ODF

ODF's new pocket guides for identifying EAB and signs of infestation flew off the shelves, requiring a second printing. The guides are in Spanish or English and have photos to help people identify ash trees, the signs and symptoms of infestation, and EAB itself. Contact Lilah Gonen (lilah.gonen@odf.oregon.gov) to request printed copies.



Publications

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 \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/Forests)

Useful links for more information

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>

