

# OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



August 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](mailto:jim.gersbach@odf.oregon.gov)*

In this issue:

- *Invasive pest summit Aug. 5-7 to inform decision-makers and land managers of leading threats*
- *Japanese beetle outbreak hits Tri-Cities in Washington*
- *Apply now through Oct. 15 for invasive species education and outreach grants from OISC*
- *Programs looking to find and breed ash trees in the eastern U.S. resistant to EAB get funding boost*

## Aug. 5-7 invasive pest summit is underway in Hillsboro

There's still time to register for a free in-person summit Aug. 5-7 in Hillsboro about invasive insect pests. The conference is for anyone interested in state efforts to protect commercial resources, urban tree canopies, culturally significant species, and natural areas from invasive insect pests. "Safeguarding Oregon: Understanding Invasive Insect Pests" is being put on by the Oregon Invasive Species Council and hosted at Clean Water Services' headquarters. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is requested. For more information or to register go to [OISC Summer Summit — Oregon Invasive Species Council](#)

Each day, pest management staff from involved agencies will cover the successes and challenges of tackling insect threats facing the state. Participants will learn in presentations and in field visits about the risks of taking no action, as well as what management resources and strategies are needed to protect Oregon's people and economy from insect pests.



Above: *Spotted lanternfly.*  
Photo credit: USDA APHIS

The summit is especially geared to regional, state and local government decision-makers, resource managers, landowners and others potentially affected by invasive insect pests. Participants can choose to attend all three days or register for individual events. Pre-registration is requested. For more information or to register go to [OISC Summer Summit — Oregon Invasive Species Council](#)

### Monday, Aug. 5

Focus will be on the state's Japanese beetle response. Includes a half-day information session followed by a visit to a local beetle treatment site in Washington County.

## Tuesday, Aug. 6

Presenters will give an overview of Oregon's main insect pest threats and management strategies. Six species of special interest to the greater Portland metropolitan area and the Willamette Valley will be highlighted:

- Spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth)
- Japanese beetle
- Emerald ash borer (EAB)
- Mediterranean oak borer
- Spotted lanternfly
- Japanese cedar longhorned beetle

## Wednesday, Aug. 7

The day begins with a field tour to visit ground zero of the EAB response in Forest Grove. It wraps up in the afternoon with the Oregon Invasive Species Council's quarterly business meeting.

### **Japanese beetle outbreak hits Tri-Cities just 35 miles from eastern Oregon**

The Washington State Department of Agriculture is asking residents in the Tri-Cities to report Japanese beetle sightings after already catching 38 beetles this summer. That is seven times more beetles than last summer when the WSDA caught five in Pasco. They are an invasive species and pose a threat to local agricultural communities.

"We're catching more beetles this year and they are being found throughout Pasco, not in a limited area," WSDA Japanese Beetle Eradication Coordinator, Camilo Acosta said. "We want to protect gardens, parks and farms in the area by eradicating Japanese beetles from the Tri-Cities. We need the community's help to succeed."

According to WSDA, the beetles can ruin gardens, kill lawns and are a general nuisance to the outdoors. The beetle also makes it harder to process and move crops out of the area because of quarantines and increased management costs for farmers.

Japanese beetles are metallic green and copper. They like to lay eggs in lawns and eat roses, but eat up to 300 other kinds of plants. The WSDA Pest Program has set hundreds of traps throughout the Tri-Cities to help detect the beetles. These traps will be up at least through September, which is during the adult beetle flight season.



*Photo credit: Washington Dept. of Agriculture*

In addition to reporting Japanese beetles, people can prevent spreading this highly invasive pest.

- Don't move yard waste. Instead, compost it at home.
- Pick Japanese beetles off garden plants and put them in soapy water to kill them.



## Apply now for OISC Invasive Species Education and Outreach grants

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) states that \$150,000 in funds will be available through OISC to fund education and outreach project grants. Applications can be submitted from now until Oct. 15.

OISC will determine priorities and awards, while the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will oversee the fiscal administration of the program.

OISC's goal is to fund as many high-priority projects as possible with the available funding. It also wants to make the process of developing a successful grant application as straightforward as possible.

Meaningful outreach and education are crucial to engaging and activating a wide network of people to protect Oregon from invasive species.

"We want to encourage a variety of applicants," said Sam Chan, aquatic invasive species expert with Oregon Sea Grant and current chair of the Oregon Invasive Species Council. "The Council is interested in collaborative projects that demonstrate large-scale impacts as well as smaller, meaningful opportunities to engage diverse communities."

Chan said OISC is hoping successful applicants will engage the public and/or specific audiences on invasive species, their impacts, pathways of introduction, prevention, and management.

Project budgets must be at least \$5,000. Projects over \$20,000 must show a collaborative, larger-scale watershed, community, or statewide education or outreach impact. Project scalability is desirable. Funding requests must align with the projects' scale and reach.

- **Who is eligible to apply?**

A grant applicant must be an eligible legal entity—a local or tribal government, non-profit organization, educational institution, or individual (an individual is not eligible for indirect or administrative costs). Eligible legal entities must have a FEIN number. A state or federal agency may apply for funding only as a co-applicant with an eligible entity.

- **Project goals**

These should relate to understanding the impacts, spread, prevention, detection, or management of invasive species issues in Oregon and be relevant to protecting clean water, working landscapes, wildlife, and the unique beauty of our state for future generations.

**Additional information and the grant application forms can be found**

at <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/grants>

- Application forms are available in English and Spanish

### Important Dates

- Application period: Aug. 1, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024
- Grant awards announced: January 2025
- Grant cycle dates: January 2025 - June 30, 2026

## Efforts to find and breed EAB-resistant ash trees in the eastern U.S. get boost

The USDA Forest Service is not alone in efforts to find resistance to emerald ash borer. In the Pacific Northwest the focus is on Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). In the eastern U.S. and Canada the focus is on several important ash species, some of which are planted in Oregon as street trees.

The Nature Conservancy recently announced its “Trees in Peril” initiative. It aims to speed up efforts to breed pest-resistant ash, elms, hemlocks and beeches. The initiative is reportedly supported by a \$4.7 million grant from the New York-based Manton Foundation. One program receiving funds is at Cornell University. That program is locating the few trees surviving in areas where EAB has killed most ash, and cross-breeding them in hopes of finding EAB resistance. The project will also finance masters, PhD, and postdoctoral positions for specialists who can carry on the breeding project, which will likely take decades.



The Yale School of the Environment has published an online story detailing efforts to find and breed EAB-resistant green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), a species important in the wild and widely planted in cities and towns in Oregon in the form of cultivars. Read more at <https://e360.yale.edu/features/ash-tree-borers-breeding-wasps>

At left: Researchers in the eastern U.S. are looking for resistance to EAB in green ash like this one growing in NW Portland. Meanwhile, USDA Forest Service researchers are conducting EAB resistance trials with Oregon’s native ash species (*Fraxinus latifolia*).

## Publications

*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 TREE HEALTH THREATS



*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/11/11/2045)

## 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](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

USFS Forest Health Protection

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