



January 2025

Square miles known to be infested with EAB:

Forest Grove – 10.4 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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Three Washington County cities receive grants to support their EAB response projects

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) has providing grants to support the following EAB response projects in Washington County:

- **City of Beaverton** – *Beaverton's EAB Response* (\$59,300) – Awarded October 2024

Grant funding will help the City of Beaverton address anticipated impacts from EAB and support a healthy urban tree canopy. Funding will cover insecticide treatments for healthy ash trees, tree removal when necessary, and neighborhood tree plantings in priority neighborhoods with relatively low tree canopy.

- **City of Cornelius** – *Cornelius Public Tree Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan* (\$5,000) – Awarded February 2024

The City of Cornelius and Oregon Dept. of Forestry have collaborated to assess the locations and health of trees that may be susceptible to EAB. This funding will be used to support actions in the city's *EAB Management Plan* by providing protective treatment to 84 trees within the public right-of-way. These treatments will help slow the rate of tree mortality and preserve the tree canopy in the near-term as additional management actions are developed and implemented.

- **City of Hillsboro, Department of Parks & Recreation - Riparian Forest Rescue! Save our unique urban forest from the invasive ash borer (\$100,000) – Awarded October 2023**

This project seeks to proactively restore and manage hundreds of acres of Oregon ash forested habitat at the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve to alleviate the imminent impacts of the invasive emerald ash borer. This project will provide ecological and community benefits, including protecting wildlife habitat along the Tualatin River, improving water quality, and providing shaded nature trails for hiking and education classes.

- For more information about Tualatin SWCD's grant programs, please visit <http://www.tualatinswcd.org/>.

Washington County group develops protocol for inventorying trees in urban natural areas

A number of Oregon cities have pockets of Oregon ash living in natural areas within their city limits. Knowing where those trees are and in what number can help cities plan for the impact of EAB on those trees and the natural areas whose ecology they are an important part of.

To help with that effort, a coalition of Washington County organizations involved in EAB response has put together a protocol for how to inventory trees in remaining pockets of natural areas within urban areas.

The protocol is available free. For more information, please contact Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District's Maura Olivos at Maura.Olivos@TualatinSWCD.org.

Northern California researchers share news about Mediterranean oak borer

California researchers have been looking at whether trees injured by wildfire are more likely to attract MOB. Curtis Ewing with California's Forest Entomology and Pathology Program said that in at least two oak species (blue oak and Oregon white oak) MOB appears more likely to infest trees in the year following wildfire injury. Despite the attacks, Ewing said several of the trees appeared to be recovering from their burn injuries and remaining healthy.

Ewing said monitoring of trees infested with Mediterranean oak borer and infected with its associated oak-wilt fungus may live longer than previously expected. He said researchers now estimate an infected tree's life expectancy to be five to 10 years after infection, up from three to five years. The death rate among MOB-infested trees in Northern California appears to be in the range of 6 to 8 percent per year.

Biocontrol sites for EAB have been scouted in mid-Willamette Valley

USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) has found a number of promising sites in Clackamas, Marion and Yamhill counties where it would like to release tiny biocontrol wasps next fall.

According to Mariah Davis with USDA APHIS, her agency has submitted the sites to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for review. If the sites are approved, a plan would be developed in conjunction with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture for staging releases at places known to be infested with emerald ash borer. The wasps that would be released parasitize EAB eggs or larvae. They've been shown to reduce EAB populations anywhere from 20 to 80 percent once fully established.



Above: *Spathius galinae*, one of the biocontrol agents being released in Oregon to help control EAB populations.

The biocontrol wasps, which are harmless to humans, pets, and other wildlife, have already been released at multiple sites in Washington County where EAB was first discovered in Oregon.

ODF contracts with Valley Environmental to hold incineration demos

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry has contracted with Valley Environmental, LLC, to conduct demonstrations of wood waste disposal via air-curtain incinerator. Starting now, the Canby-based firm will be able to bring their air-curtain incinerator to about two dozen sites around the Willamette Valley and beyond to show how it can burn pest-infested or diseased wood with minimal smoke emissions.

So far about half a dozen organizations have expressed interest in holding a demonstration.



Above: Ash wood can be burned in a mobile air curtain incinerator without producing much smoke. Seen here is Matt Mills with ODF burning infested ash wood in Forest Grove in spring 2024.

Hosting organizations should have a sufficient supply of piled or stacked wood waste to burn. Pieces should not exceed 16" in diameter or 8' in length. The mobile incinerator can handle both hardwoods and conifer wood. Air curtain incinerators are an improvement to open burns piles because ACIs produce far less smoke and pollutants, allowing them to be used at times of the year and locations open burning is not allowed. The incinerators also produce biochar, which can be used as a soil amendment that adds carbon to the soil and helps retain moisture.

ODF's Urban and Community Forestry staff are looking for community partners to host ACI demonstrations and outreach events throughout the state over the next two years. Organizations that are interested in hosting such an event can reach staff at invasivepests@odf.oregon.gov. Provide contact info (name, phone, email, name of host organization(s), available dates, groups that could be invited to attend, and description of the wood waste material to be burned). Sessions won't be scheduled during local wildfire seasons (usually June-September).

Workers debark felled trees from around Forest Grove looking for EAB

At right: *Matt Mills with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry demonstrates how to debark a log from a felled ash tree to look for emerald ash borer larvae lurking deeper inside. The trees were girdled earlier in 2024 so they would be more attractive to female EABs, looking for an ash tree on which to lay their eggs.*

Felling the trees and then destroying them helps reduce the number of larvae that become adults which can fly to uninfested trees.



Oregon House Committee on Agriculture hears about EAB

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry's Invasive Species Specialist Wyatt Williams testified in December about emerald ash borer in Oregon to the Legislature's House Committee on Agriculture. The committee specifically requested the briefing through the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

Wyatt's presentation outlined how the pest reached North America and how it was not able to be eradicated and has since spread to Oregon and 36 other states. After explaining that it is expected to kill most Oregon ash, he shared how a coalition of state, local, and federal partners has been working to slow the spread of the pest to give communities more time to prepare for dealing with its impact.

Committee members asked Williams questions about EAB and other tree-related concerns, such as the decline in western redcedars and tree losses from drought. The committee chair asked to be updated again during the upcoming session. View the presentation and questions and answers [here](#) starting at 53:19 on the timeline and ending at 1:13.

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 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/Free-Full-Text/Wood-Decay-Fungi-Associated-with-Galleries-of-the-Emerald-Ash-Borer)

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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>