

OREGON EAB *Bulletin*

A monthly news digest about preparations for and response to Emerald Ash Borers' arrival.



June 2023

Trees surveyed to date: 9,142 (95% are trees in Washington County)

of trees with confirmed EAB presence: 50

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Adult EABs are emerging - know where to report a sighting in Oregon

Adult emerald ash borers started emerging at the end of May and will continue over the next couple months to exit ash trees and look for new host trees to lay their eggs on. 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.

Movement of ash and white fringe tree material from Washington County still under quarantine

Movement of ash and white fringe tree material in Washington County remains under control by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Movement of seeds, leaves and finished wood products without attached bark are not restricted, and olive is no longer restricted. A compliance agreement with ODA is needed to move any of the following out of the county:

- Logs
- Stumps
- Green lumber
- Nursery stock
- Scion wood
- Root stock
- Chips and mulch
- Roots and branches
- Firewood of any hardwood species

Recommended methods for proper disposal of ash and white fringe tree include:

- Debark wood and remove at least 1 inch of underlying wood.
- Grind or chip wood to 1 inch or less.
- Heat wood to at least 170°F for at least 60 minutes or burn it
- Bury under at least 12 inches of topsoil.
- Process wood into finished products, such as paper, fiber board, wood pellets, etc.

First release of natural enemies of EAB takes place near Forest Grove

After months looking for suitable places near Forest Grove where EAB is present, staff from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture on June 7 released in Oregon for the first time natural enemies of the destructive borer. ODA staff worked with landowners Metro and Clean Water Services, and people from the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to locate good release sites.

The parasitoids were produced at the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, Mich, and shipped from there to Oregon. For parasitoid information, please call 866-322-4512.

Two species were approved for release:

- *Tetrastichus planipennis*
- *Spathius galinae*
- *Oobius agrili*

These tiny wasps seek out EAB larvae under the bark of ash trees and inject their eggs into them. These wasps are incredibly small and only target EAB larvae. They will not harm people, pets, or the larvae of other species. Like EAB, they are native to Russia and China. The wasps don't eradicate EAB, but data from releases elsewhere in the country show they help reduce EAB populations, which slows the spread and gives communities more time to prepare.



The wasps came to ODA in short bolts of ash wood (see photo at right). Last spring these bolts were intentionally infested with EAB. The wasps were then allowed to penetrate the bark and lay their eggs into the EAB larvae. Once the wasps were about to emerge, the bolts were shipped to Oregon overnight. They were placed the next day in ash trees by ODA staff, who hung 14 bolts total at two locations near Forest Grove, and released 13 adult *Spathius galinae*. ODA expects to release more of the wasps in coming weeks. In the fall, ODA staff will collect wood samples from these sites, look for EAB larvae under the bark, and see if the wasps were able to lay their eggs in our environment.

ODA, Metro and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District ring Forest Grove with surveillance trees to detect and trap EAB

With EAB adults now emerging from inside ash trees, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture is working with Metro, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and local landowners in hopes of catching any that are flying out from the first detection sites in Forest Grove by ringing the city with more than 100 "trap trees."

These are native Oregon ash trees that have been girdled so that they send out distress signals that attract any female EABs looking for a place to lay their eggs. Selected trees surround Forest Grove at a distance of about 2 miles from where EAB was first spotted. Ash trees surrounding a girdled tree will be treated with an insecticide that should prevent infestation by EAB and concentrate egg-laying on the trap tree instead.

Next fall, the trees will be cut down and examined to see if any larvae are inside. This will help officials know if the insect has spread and in what direction, helping better inform community responses. At the same time, each EAB that does lay eggs on a trap tree is one less whose offspring will mature and fly to other trees. This can potentially slow the spread.



Oregon Dept. of Forestry places EAB traps beyond Forest Grove

While ODA staff ring Forest Grove with trap trees to catch the pest as it migrates outward from the initial detection site, Oregon Dept. of Forestry's Hazel Daniels is placing traps 15 to 30 miles from Forest Grove in an attempt to spot EABs that might slip past into outlying areas. These are also long-term monitoring plots where the progression of EAB through natural stands of Oregon ash can be measured. Daniels will fly drones over these plots to show the impact of EAB on the stands over time.



While ODF does not expect to catch any EAB this year, agency staff are establishing a baseline to know when and where the tree-killing insect is headed in future years as the population expands. Information about whether or not EAB has arrived in their area helps communities know when treatment of high-value trees should begin.

Photo at left: ODF's Hazel Daniels recently set traps in an ash grove on Sauvie Island, a tempting destination for any female EABs arriving in the area. Among other trap sites will be Champoeg Park.

Ash tree removals continue apace in Forest Grove to slow spread of EAB

Ash trees within a mile of the first site where emerald ash borers were detected in Forest Grove are rapidly being felled thanks to funds the Oregon State Emergency Board earmarked to help the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture with EAB response.

ODA is overseeing the removals, which will help to reduce the number of EAB adults that are emerging and able to fly out and infest new trees. ODA estimates that they'll have removed 58 trees by June 30, when the grant funds expire.



Photo at right: Workers begin chipping a white ash removed May 25 from Lincoln Park in Forest Grove. EAB larvae were found in trees removed from the park.



Photo at left: Students from Oregon State University and their Forest Ecosystems and Society Professor Dave Shaw (in orange hard hat) check for the presence of EAB larvae in a newly felled ash tree in Forest Grove (they found one). ODA staff (at right) helped explain how to check for the pest by shaving away bark to reveal the winding galleries made by larvae underneath.



The open period for submitting funding suggestions for the 2024 fiscal year Plant Protection Act section 7721 cycle is open until August 9

APHIS recently announced that \$75 million will be awarded to government, non-profit, university, tribal, and industry partners during the fiscal year 2024 Plant Protection Act (PPA) Section 7721 funding cycle. **Proposals for EAB-related work must align with one of the six PPA 7721 Goal Areas to be considered**; see the 2024 PPA 7721 [Implementation Plan](#) for more information regarding Goal Areas. Activities involving early detection survey exclusively targeting EAB, tree removal and disposal, and tree injection are not eligible for PPA funding. Examples of EAB-related activities that may be competitive for funding include education/outreach, readiness planning, or insect pest detection surveys that include targets listed on the National Priority Pest List in addition to EAB.

All proposals must be submitted by the August 9th deadline via the ServiceNow platform to be considered. Access to ServiceNow requires a password requested from APHIS. More information is available on the [PPA 7721 website](#). Please contact the APHIS Pest Survey Specialist for Oregon (mariah.davis@usda.gov) to request access to the ServiceNow platform.”

Treatment vs. removal options, ash wood disposal, and alternative replacements for ash among topics discussed at urban forestry conference

A capacity crowd of 150 heard from four speakers and 17 panelists addressing emerald ash borer in Oregon earlier this month at the state’s largest Urban and Community Forestry conference. The Oregon Dept. of Forestry, USDA Forest Service and the non-profit Oregon Community Trees collaborate to put on the conference. Held in Portland, this was the first in-person conference since 2019. It addressed:

- the global context for why so many tree pests keep arriving in Oregon
- impacts to human health from canopy loss or gain
- things to consider when considering removal vs. treatment of ash trees
- ways to safely and productively dispose of ash wood from trees killed by EAB
- what tree species to replace ash in urban settings and natural areas
- the importance of inventorying your community’s trees ahead of EAB infestation

Videos from the conference should be available by the end of the month. Check on the Oregon Dept. of Forestry’s YouTube channel, where the videos will be posted when complete.

DEQ tests emissions from air curtain incinerator

Oregon’s Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) worked with a number of state and local partners to test emissions from an air curtain incinerator (ACI) as it burned ash wood. The test burn, held in late May on the grounds of Clean Water Services near Forest Grove, should help determine the degree to



which using the incinerator reduces airborne emissions compared to open pile burning. ACI burning on or near where ash is felled is considered a sure way to kill EAB larvae inside those trees. One bonus of using an air curtain incinerator is it produces a useful byproduct known as biochar. Results of the test are being analyzed and will be made public later this year.

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)

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/foresthealth.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>

