

# OREGON EAB *Bulletin*

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



**Trees surveyed to date: 8,500 (95% are trees in Washington County)**

**# of trees with confirmed EAB presence: 39**

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## **Surveys to date appear to show EAB has yet to spread beyond Washington County**

Since emerald ash borers were found in Forest Grove in late June 2022, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) have been collaborating with others to learn how far this tree-killing pest may have spread. Staff have been hired to look for signs of infestations in ash trees all around Forest Grove. ODA is surveying up to 15 miles out from the site where EAB was first found, and ODF is planning to monitor trees from 15 to 30 miles from that location. Preliminary results show that all infested trees found so far have been in Forest Grove or within a few miles of the city. Unfortunately, infested trees have been found in wild Oregon ash trees in the vicinity of Fernhill Reservoir on the outskirts of Fernhill just south of Highway 47. The interagency group in charge of the monitoring says until a more thorough search is completed it is too early to rule out whether EAB, which can fly for several miles, has moved beyond Washington County.

## **Federal government scouts locations for release of parasitoid wasps**

The federal agency, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is working with Clean Water Services and Tualatin Valley Soil and Water Conservation Service in cooperation with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to find suitable locations in Washington County to release biocontrol agents—tiny wasps from Asia that are emerald ash borer's natural enemies. The wasps are showing promise in terms of protecting young ash saplings. The stingless wasps are harmless to people and pests but deadly to emerald ash borers. They lay their eggs inside EAB eggs or larvae. When the wasps hatch, they literally eat EAB to death.

First released in Michigan in 2007, the most recent studies show that where the wasps have established, they cause a 20% to 80% reduction in EAB populations, helping reduce the intensity of EAB infestations. The most promising locations for release appear to be in stands of wild Oregon ash in the Fernhill Reservoir area, which is managed by Clean Water Services.

Before releasing the wasps, research in China and the United States showed that the wasps prefer EAB over other insects. An environmental assessment found no adverse effects from releasing these insects. You can read more about efforts to use biocontrol against EAB at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant\\_health/faq\\_eab\\_biocontrol.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/faq_eab_biocontrol.pdf)

## **Oregon Department of Forestry finishes collecting over 900,000 seeds of Oregon ash**

Oregon Department of Forestry staff late last year completed an unprecedented effort to collect seeds from populations of Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) trees throughout the Oregon portion of the species range, before they are devastated by EAB.



Between 2019 and the end of 2022, five ODF staff members collected more than 900,000 seeds from 245 mother trees representing 27 distinct populations from the Coast Range throughout the Willamette Valley and the western Cascade foothills, and south to the California border.

A third of the seeds were sent to the primary long-term storage facility at the Center for Agricultural Resources Research (ARS) National Seed Lab in Fort Collins, Colorado. Equal amounts were also sent to the USDA Forest Service's Dorena Genetic Resource Center in Cottage Grove and to the USDA Agricultural Research Service's North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa. This will allow both sites to help facilitate research on Oregon ash, the only species of ash native to the state.

The collecting effort was made possible by a federal grant from the USDA Forest Service. Watch a video about the project at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8y-Xk285S8>

## **Early registration now open for June 1 conference on EAB and other looming insect pests**

Early registration is now open for Oregon's major Urban and Community Forestry Conference. The all-day conference will be 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.

### **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

### **There will also be a panels 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 and how to ensure their availability

**Early registration is \$150 until April 25 and \$170 after that. Students 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>



## 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](http://oregoneab.com).

## New 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 \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/1911-1033/11/11/2111)

## 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>

USDA's EAB Program

[www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/eab](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/eab)