

Emerald Ash Borer: Managing a New Threat to Oregon's Trees

*Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Urban & Community Forestry Program*

Lilah Gonen | Community Assistance Forester



Washington County
Master Gardener Association
March 4, 2025

Agenda



Emerald Ash Borer: Introduction + History

Oregon's Response

Ash Tree ID + Importance

EAB Signs + Symptoms

Management Options

Resources for Master Gardeners

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)



- Invasive and highly destructive woodboring beetle that kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.).



Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)



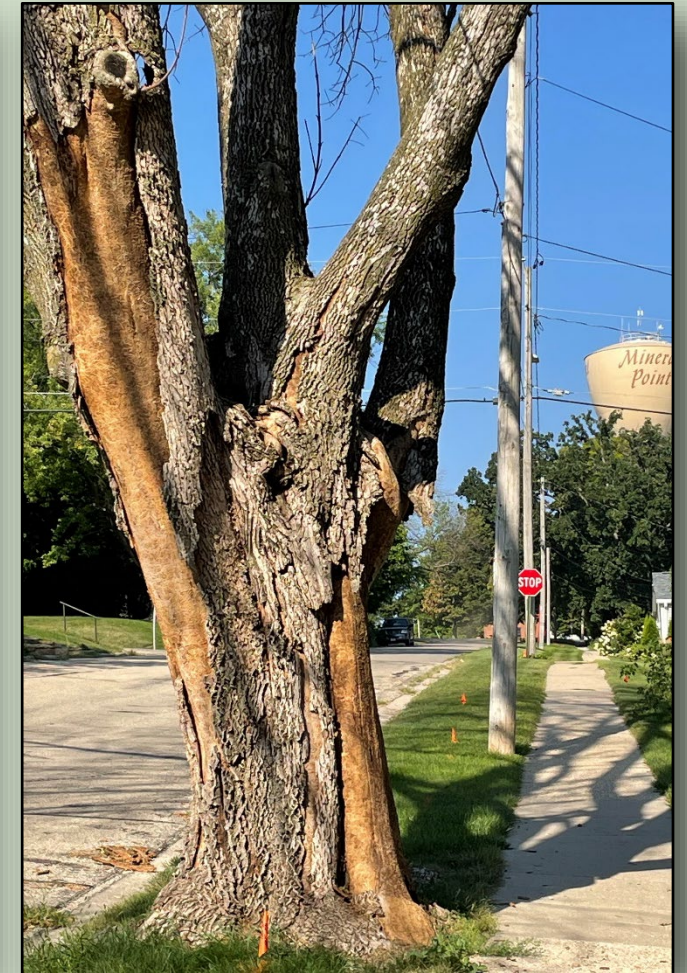
- Invasive and highly destructive woodboring beetle that kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.).
- **Also infests olive (*Olea europaea*) and white fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)**



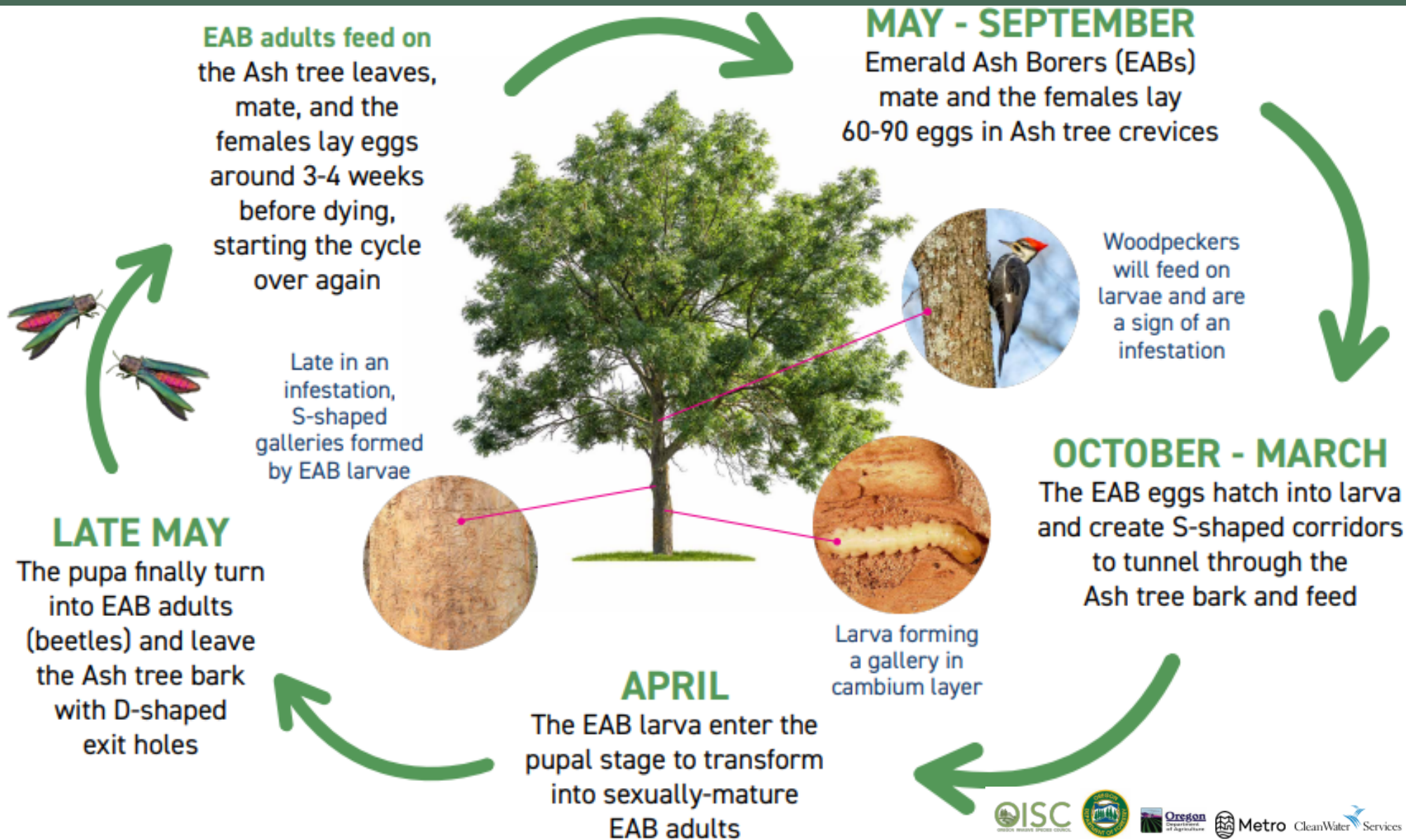
Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)



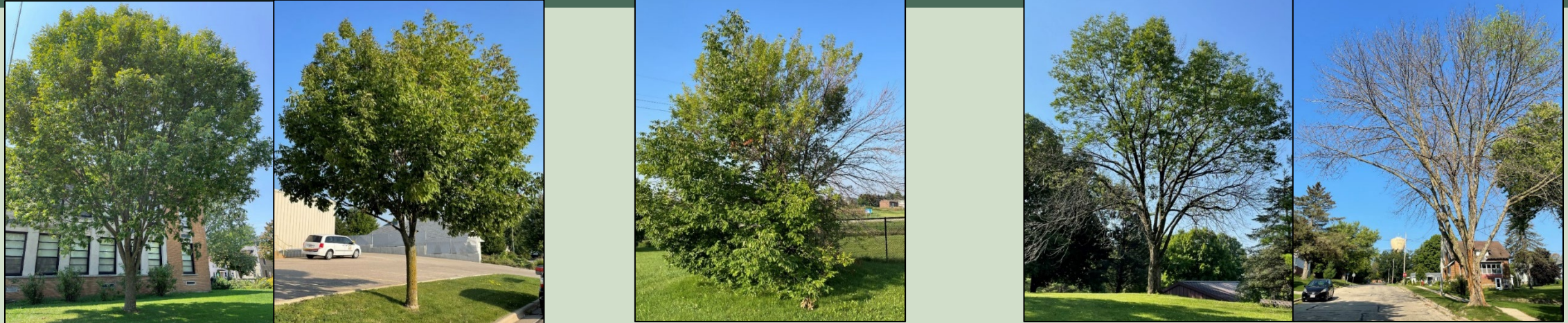
- Invasive and highly destructive woodboring beetle that kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.).
 - Also infests olive (*Olea europaea*) and white fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- **Larvae feed beneath bark, eventually girdling and killing the tree.**



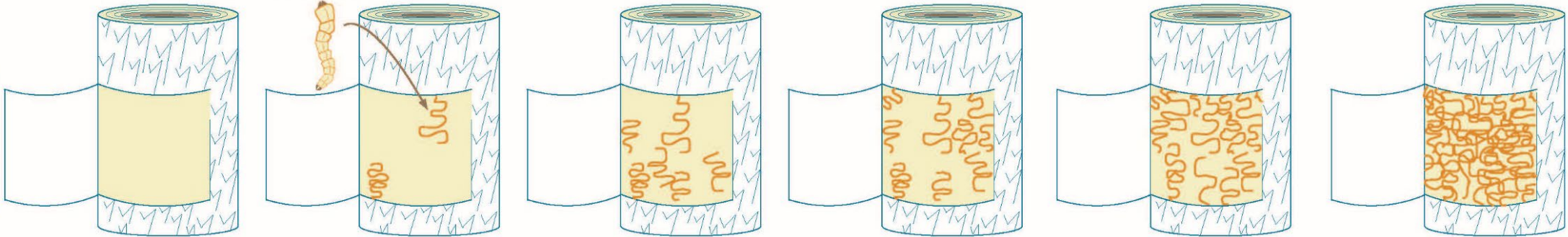
EAB Life Cycle



Infestation Timeline – Tree Scale



CUT-AWAY OF BARK



A healthy ash tree will transport water through this year's growth ring. (shown in blue)

The larvae of the beetles eat the growth rings (called 'xylem') under the bark of the tree.

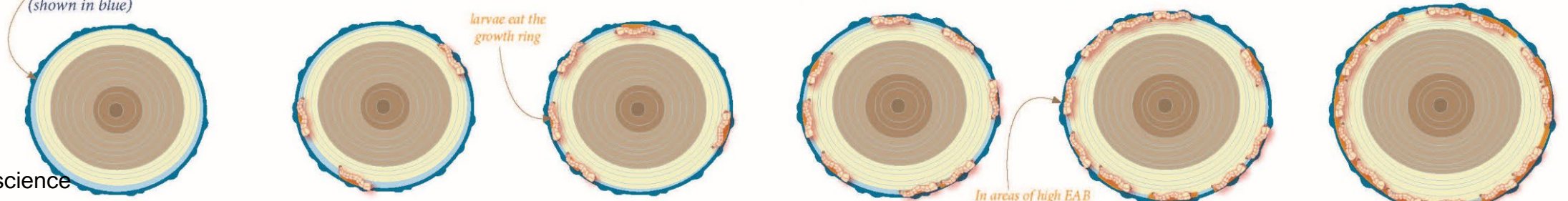
Each year, more of the xylem is eaten by the larvae so less water is reaching the leaves.

Symptoms of decline often don't appear until the third year of infestation.

The adults beetles will continue to lay eggs on the same tree until that tree is dead.

A heavily infested tree can no longer transport water and the top dies. The beetles will move on to the next ash tree.

CROSS-SECTION



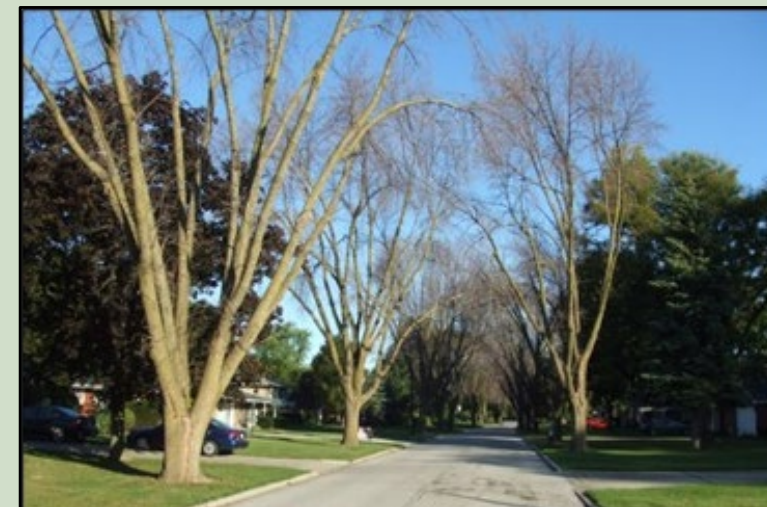
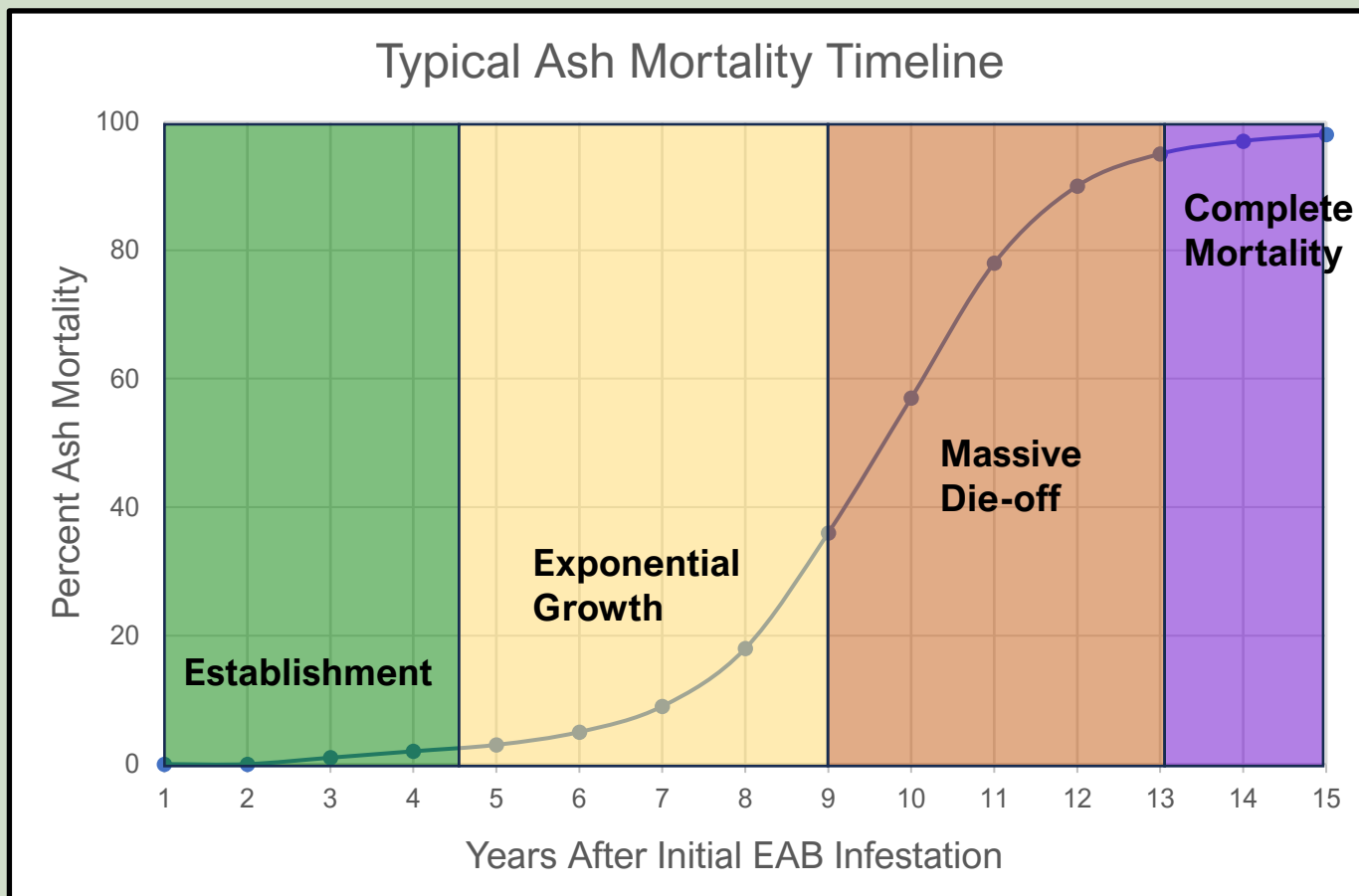
larvae eat the growth ring

In areas of high EAB

Infestation Timeline – Community Scale

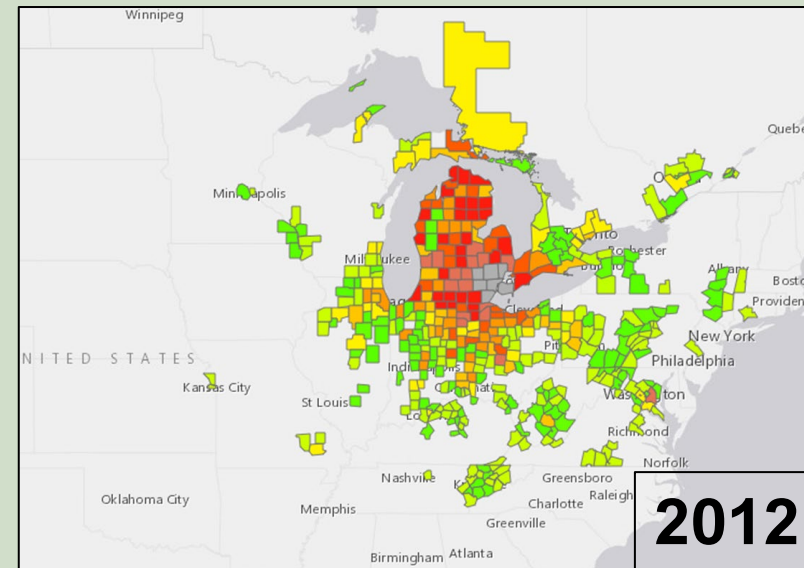
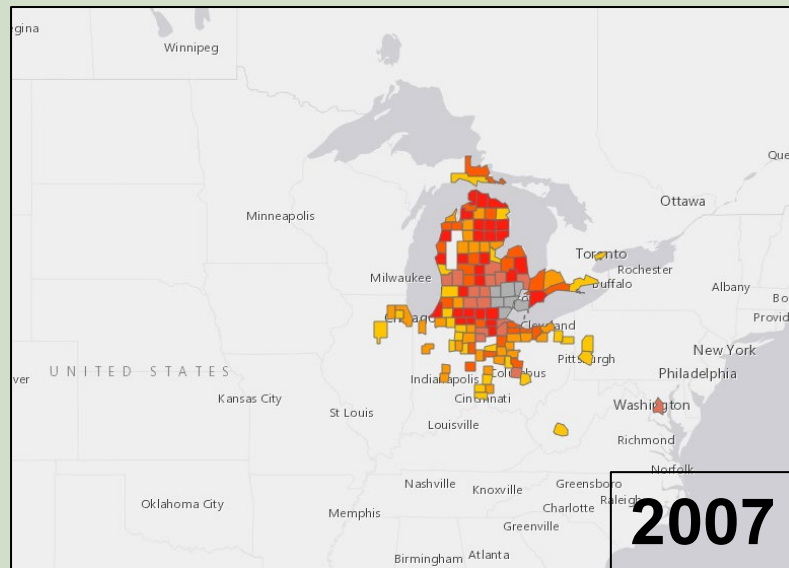


The rate of ash mortality may outpace a community's ability to deal with dead/dying trees.

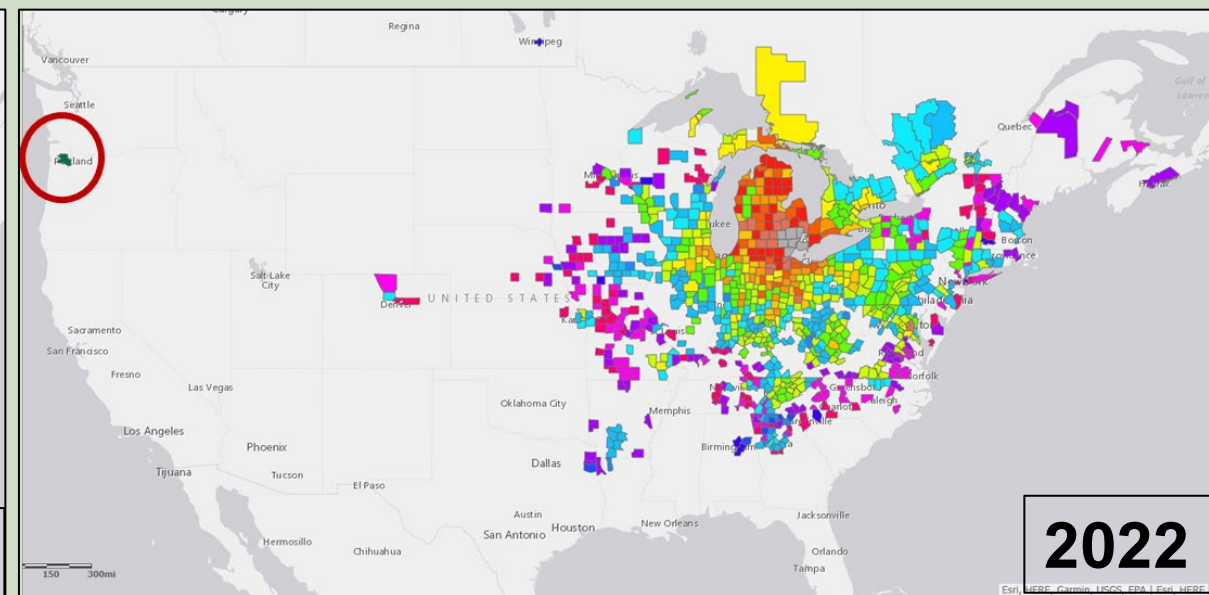
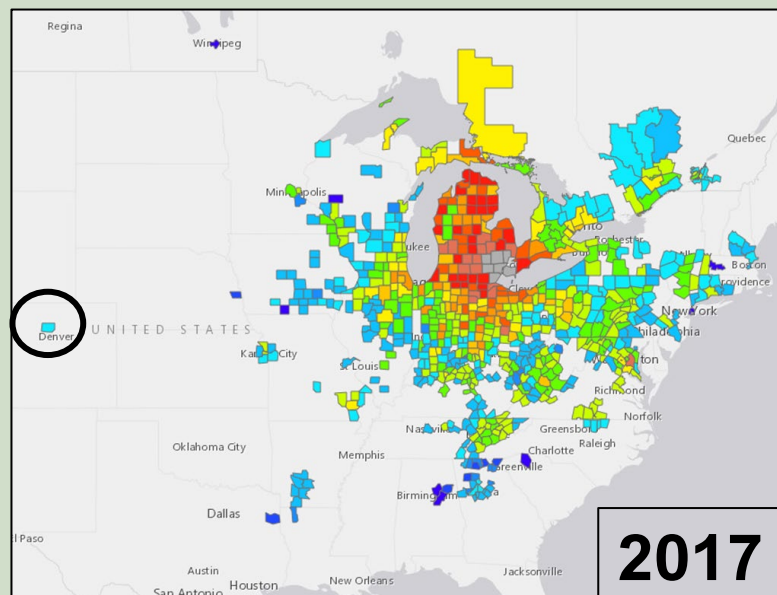


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EAB: History in the US



- Found in Michigan in 2002, now in 37 states and 6 providences.
- Detected in Forest Grove, Oregon in June 2022.



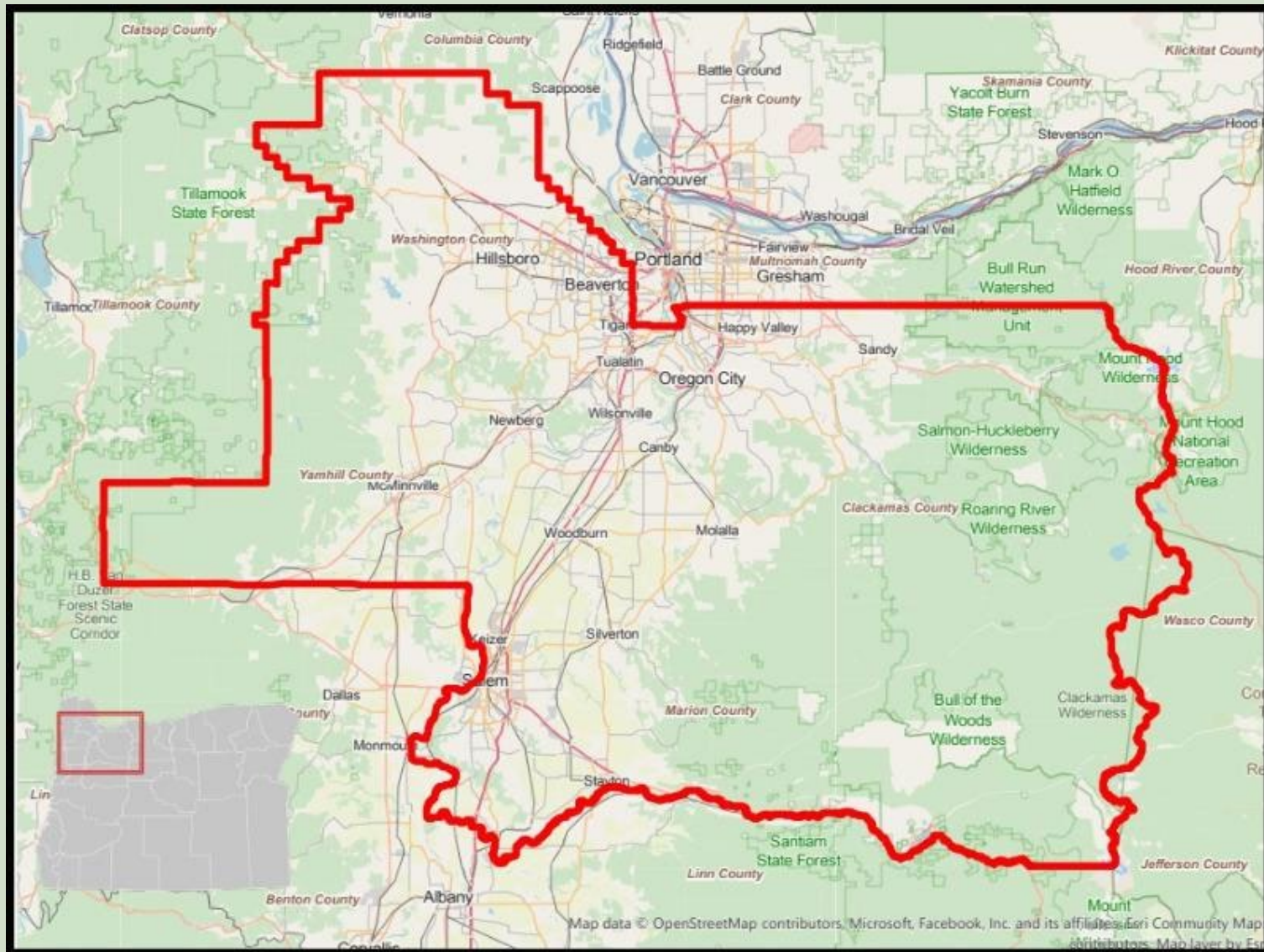
EAB in Oregon: Updates



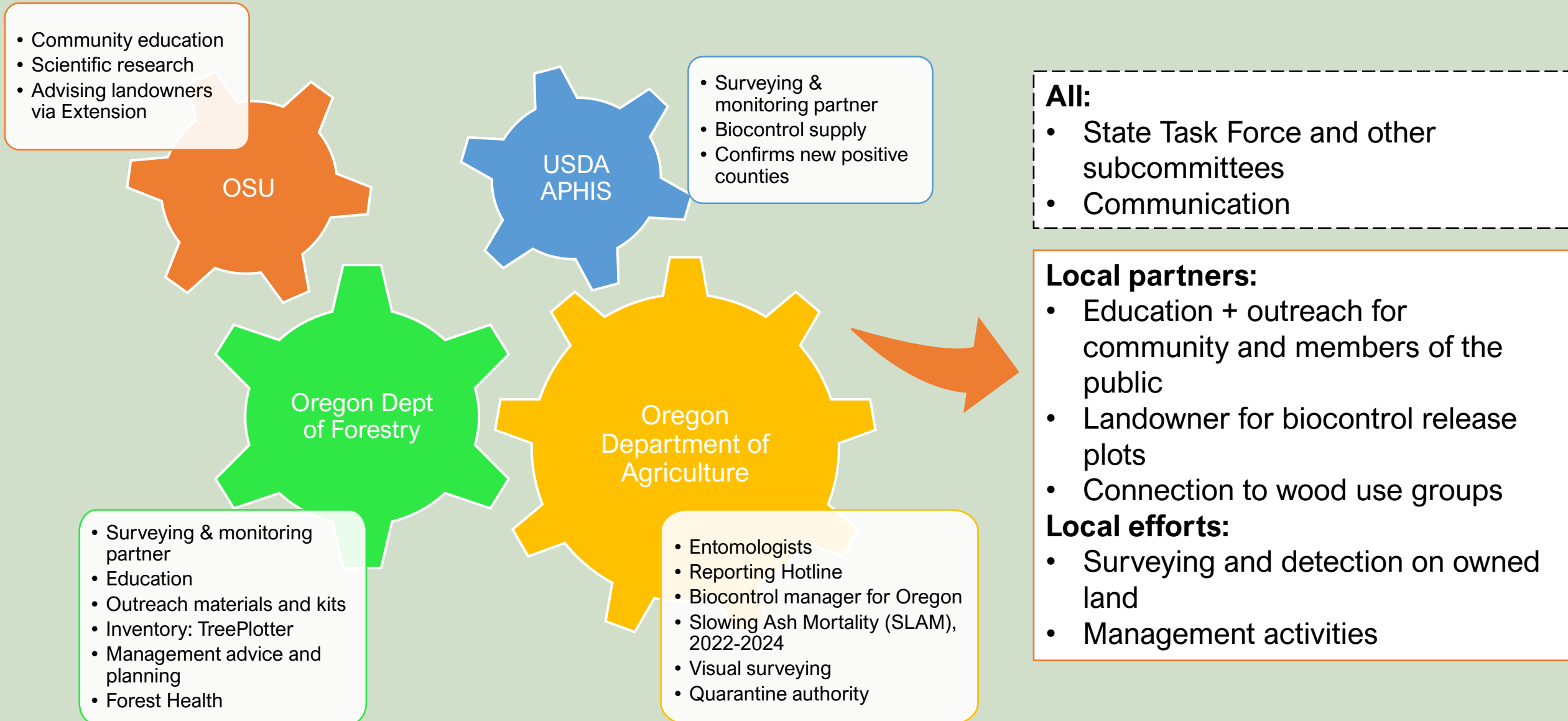
Counties currently under quarantine:

- Washington (2022)
- Yamhill (2024)
- Clackamas (2024)
- Marion (2024)

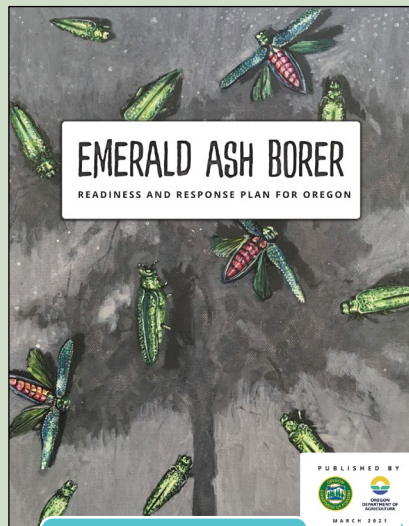
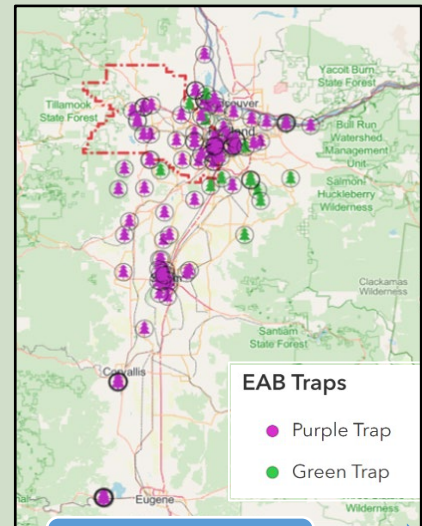
Quarantine automatically expands when EAB is confirmed in a new county



Oregon's Response: Agencies



Oregon's EAB Response



Prior to 2013

2018

2019

2022

2023

2024

- Trapping throughout state
- Federal and state cooperation

- Created EAB Readiness and Response Plan

- Oregon Ash Seed Collection begins

- First detection in Oregon
- Statewide taskforces created

- Visual surveying + trapping increases
- **SLAM** begins
- Biocontrol release

- New infestations discovered
- Ongoing:
 - SLAM
 - Biocontrol
 - State Task Force
 - Education



**Forest Grove, OR
April 2024**



January 2025



Dying ash are dangerous

An 80-foot ash tree crashed into a building at Hobby World in Adams, causing significant damage

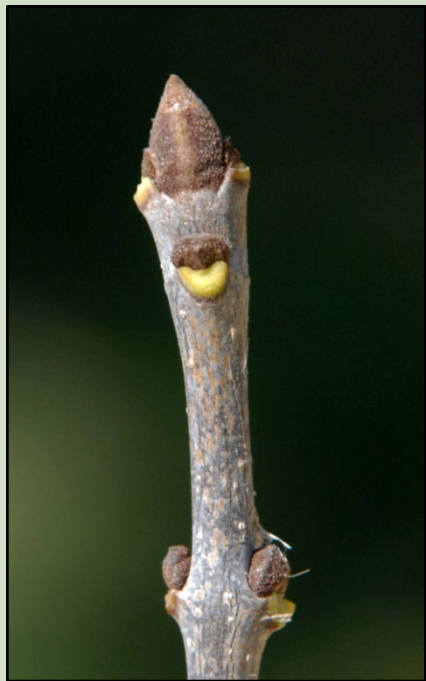
By Scott Sparrella, The Berkshire Eagle Sep 25, 2024 1 min to read



Ash in Oregon: Identification



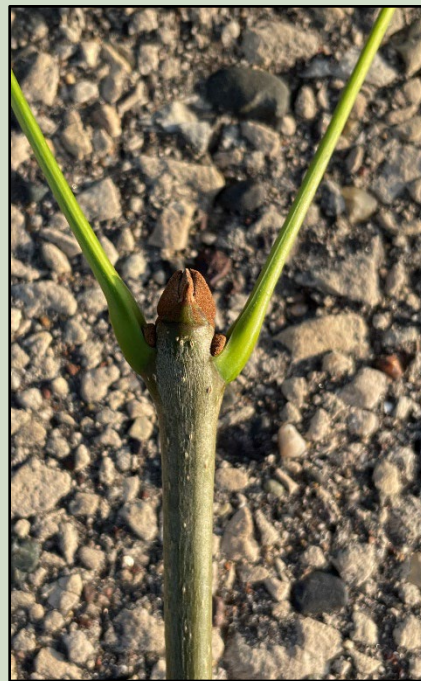
**Furrowed
Gray Bark**



**Fuzzy,
Brown &
Pointy Buds**



**Pinnately
Compound
Leaves**



**Opposite
Branching**



**Single-Wing
Samaras**

Ash in Oregon: Identification



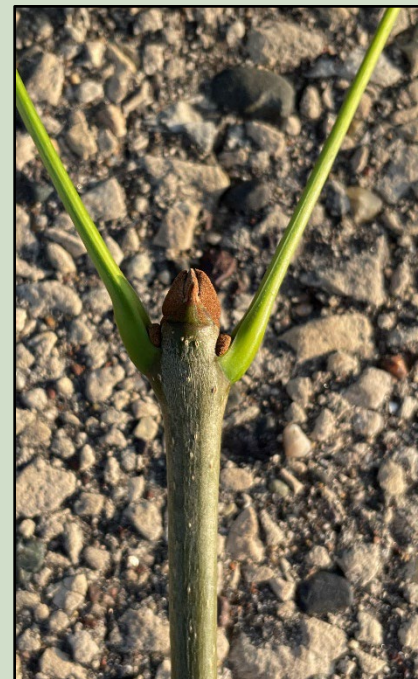
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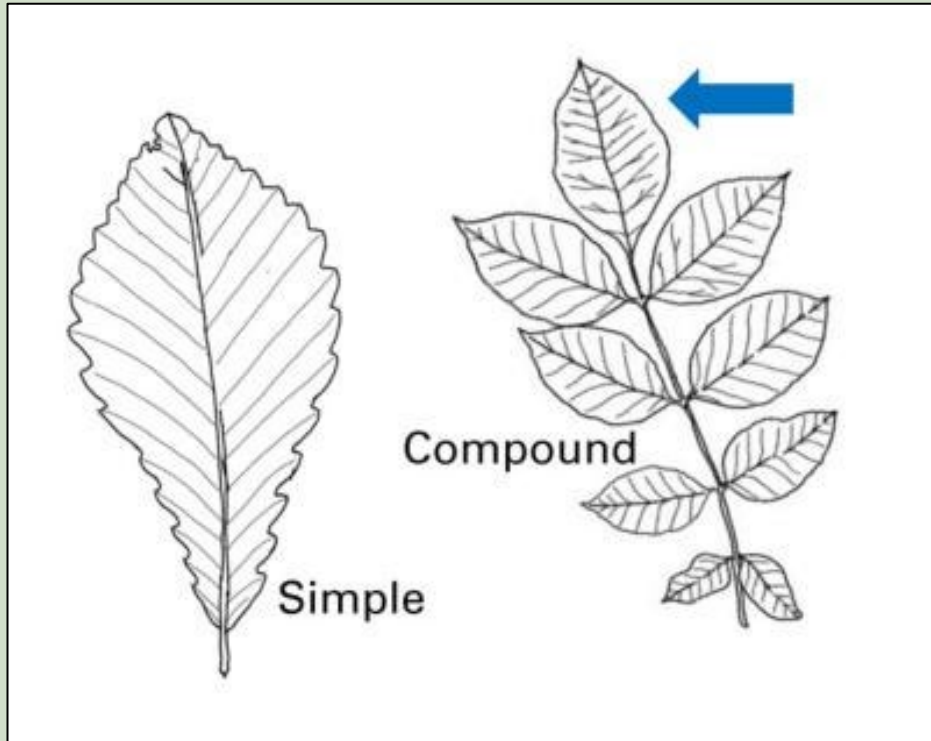


**Opposite
Branching**

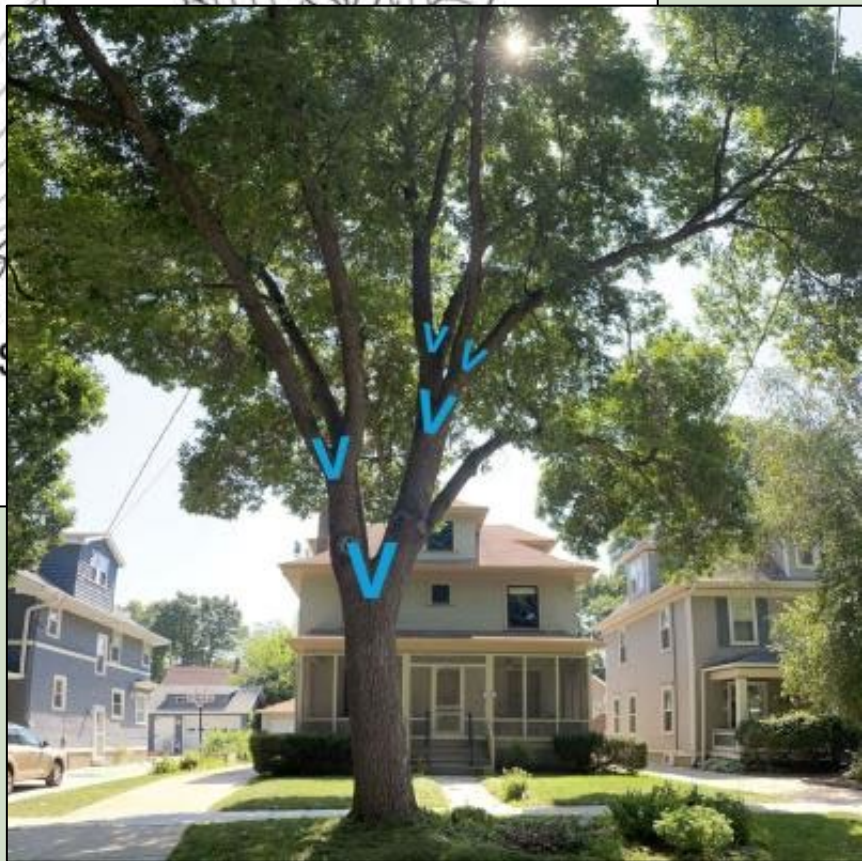
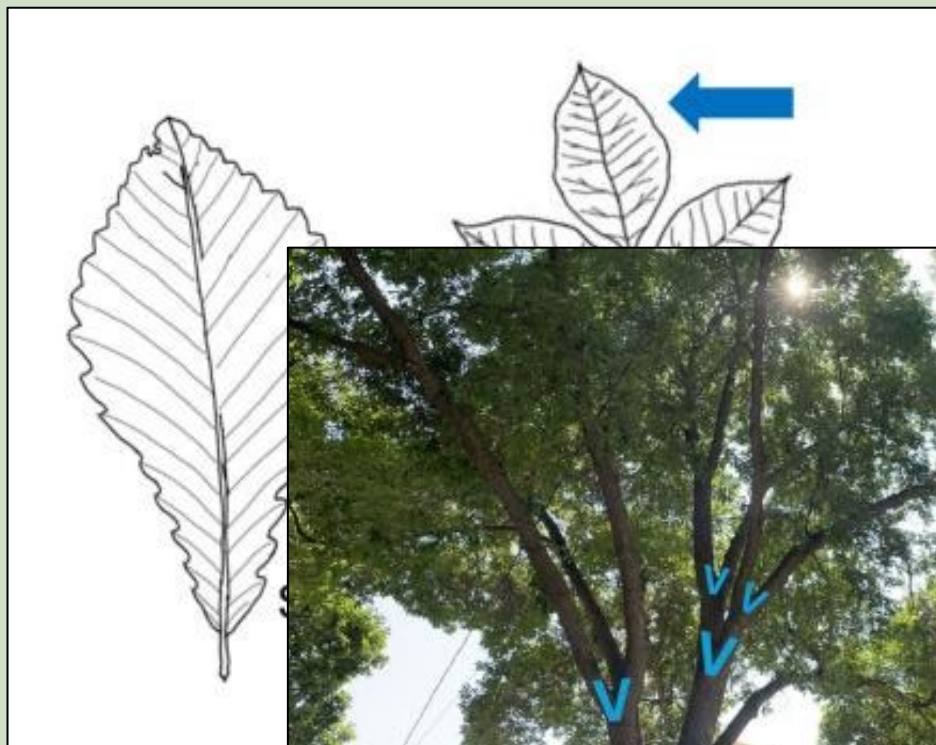


**Single-Wing
Samaras**

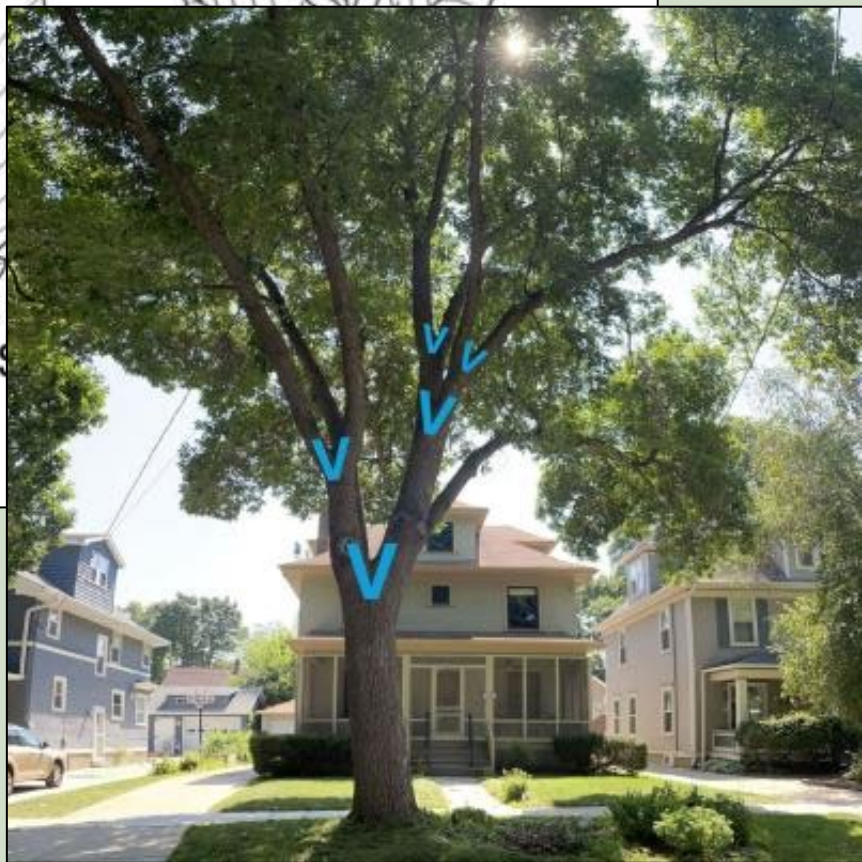
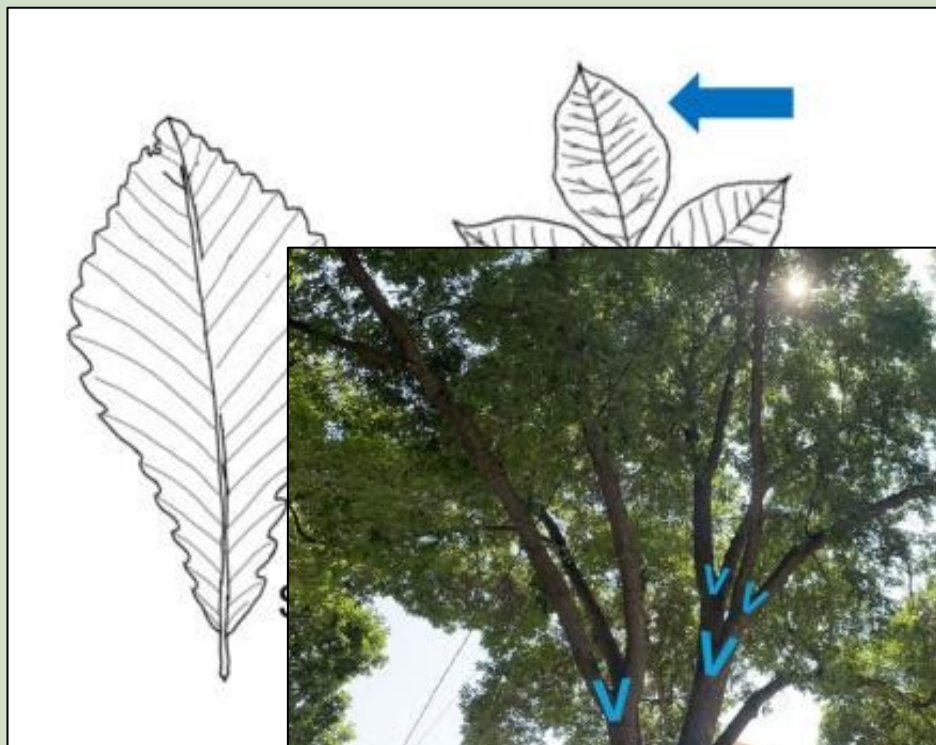
Ash in Oregon: Identification



Ash in Oregon: Identification



Ash in Oregon: Identification



Commonly mistaken trees

Mountain-ash, aka Rowan (*Sorbus* spp.)

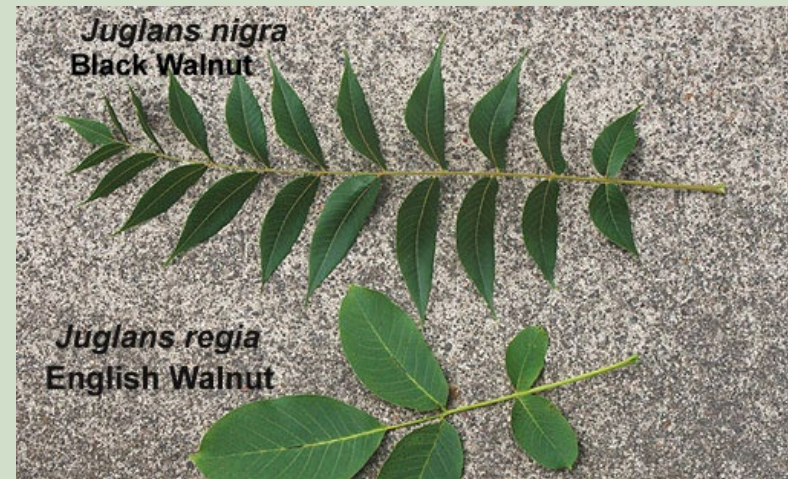
- ID clues: bright red berries, **alternate branching**, leaflets are serrate, not a true ash

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

- ID clues: too many leaflets, **alternate branching**, bad smell

Walnuts (*Juglans* spp.)

- ID clues: too many leaflets (Black Walnut), **alternate branching**, nuts not samara



Ash Trees in Oregon



**Wildland
Urban
Interfaces
(WUI) sites**

**Natural
Areas**

- Riparian Corridors
- Wetlands

**Urban
Areas**

- Streets
- Yards
- Parks



An aerial photograph of a riparian corridor. A yellow outline highlights a winding path through a landscape of green fields, forests, and a river. The path follows the river's course, connecting different areas of the landscape. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small town.

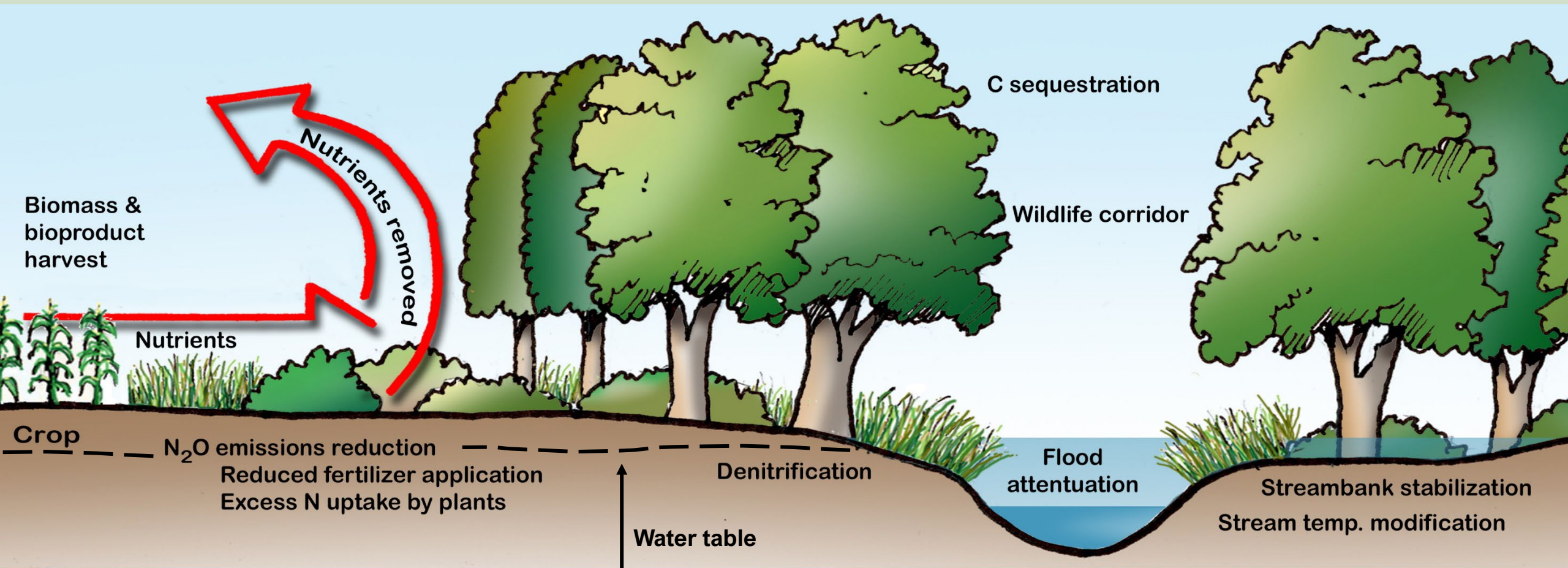
Ash in Riparian Corridors

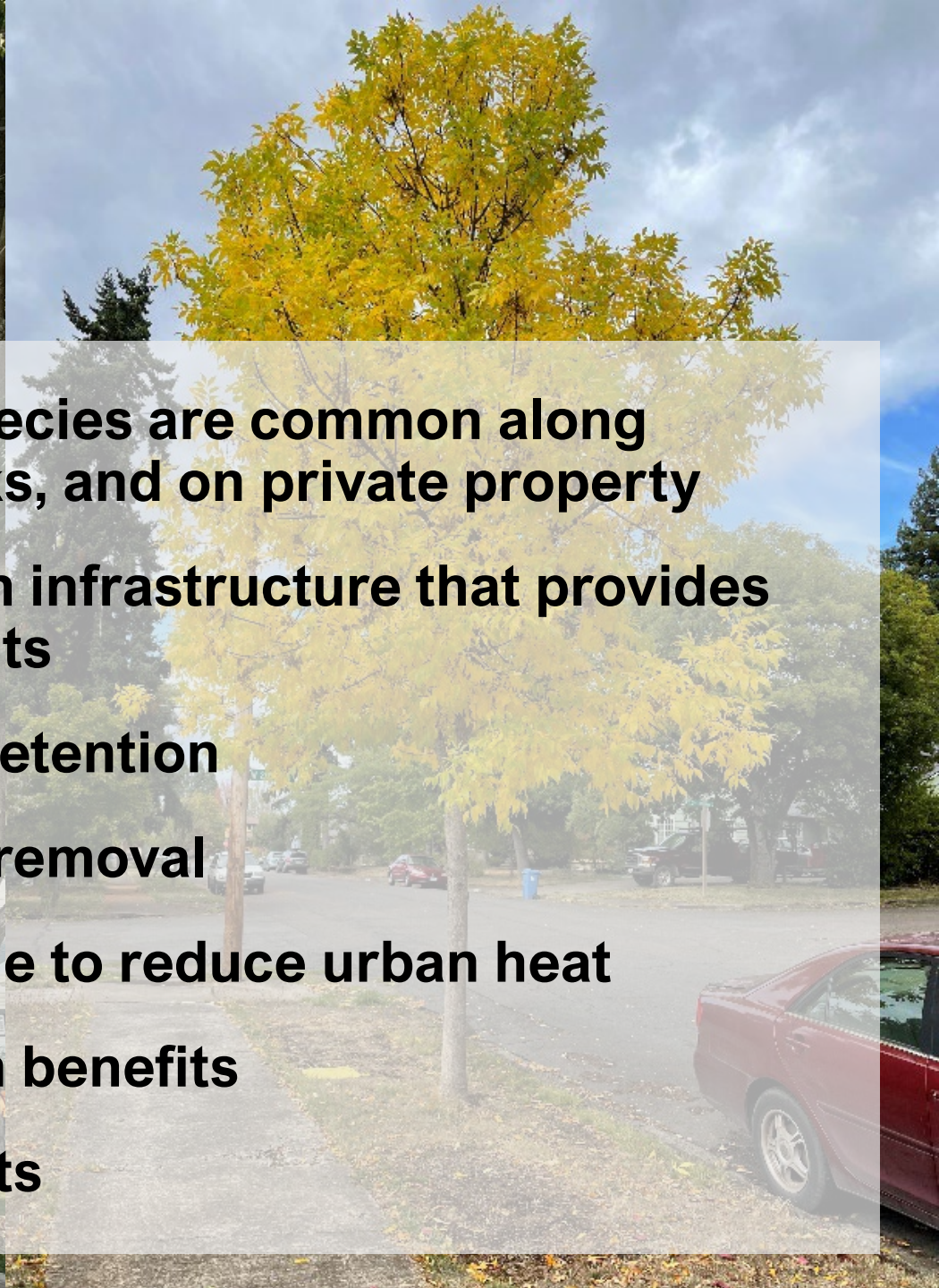
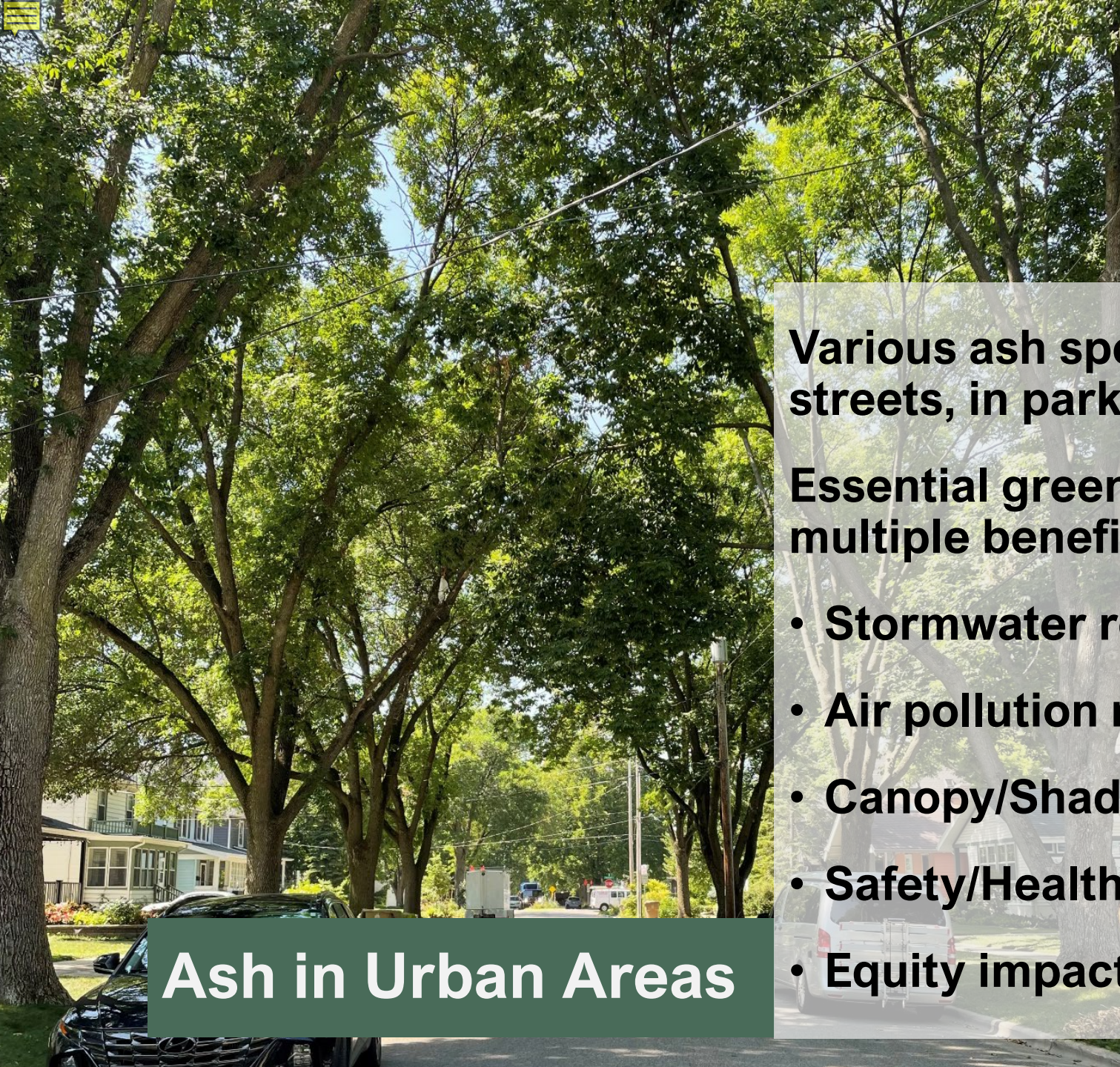
Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*): Oregon's only native ash tree

- Important riparian and wetland tree
- Fragmented and altered landscape
- Critical habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Important cultural resource to Indigenous peoples



Ecosystem of Riparian Areas





Various ash species are common along streets, in parks, and on private property

Essential green infrastructure that provides multiple benefits

- **Stormwater retention**
- **Air pollution removal**
- **Canopy/Shade to reduce urban heat**
- **Safety/Health benefits**
- **Equity impacts**

Ash in Urban Areas

EAB Signs & Symptoms



Thinning crown and canopy decline



Epicormic sprouting or shoots



Woodpecker damage

EAB Signs & Symptoms



Thinning crown and canopy decline



Epicormic shoots



Woodpecker damage

Alarm level

EAB Signs & Symptoms



Bark splits



**Serpentine galleries
(S-shaped)**



D – shaped exit holes

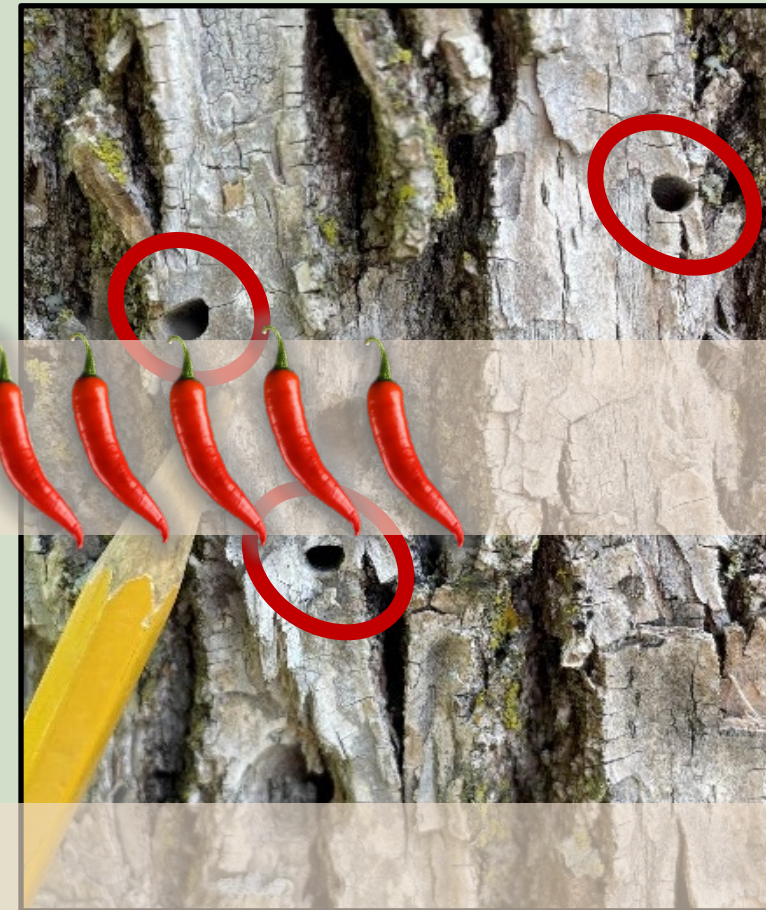
EAB Signs & Symptoms



Bark splits



Serpentine galleries



D – shaped exit holes

Alarm level

Report at

www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org

Damage not caused by EAB



All images from OSU's [Oregon Ash: Insects, Pathogens, and Tree Health](#)

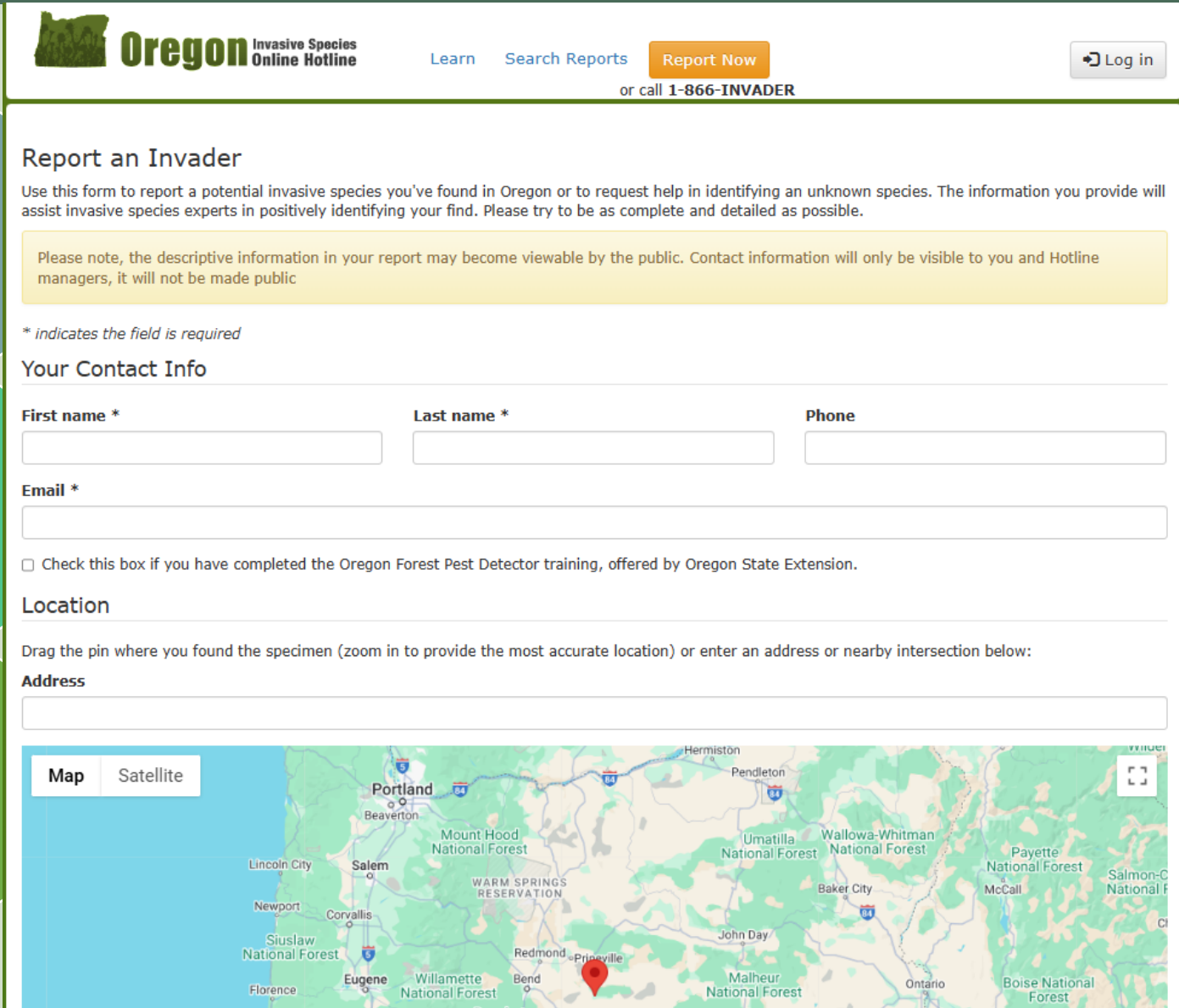
Report Suspected Infestations



Report using Oregon Invasive Species Hotline

Take photos of symptoms

Tree location



Oregon Invasive Species Online Hotline [Learn](#) [Search Reports](#) [Report Now](#) or call **1-866-INVADER** [Log in](#)

Report an Invader

Use this form to report a potential invasive species you've found in Oregon or to request help in identifying an unknown species. The information you provide will assist invasive species experts in positively identifying your find. Please try to be as complete and detailed as possible.

Please note, the descriptive information in your report may become viewable by the public. Contact information will only be visible to you and Hotline managers, it will not be made public

** indicates the field is required*

Your Contact Info

First name *	Last name *	Phone
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

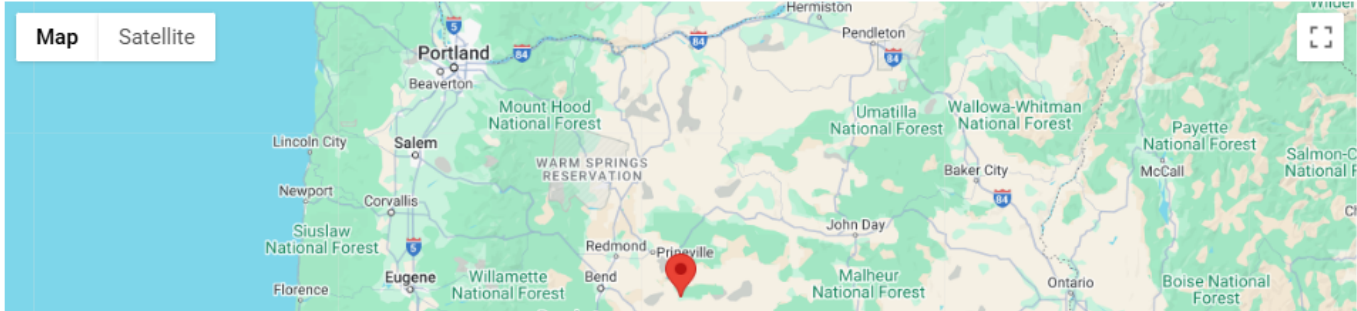
Email *

Check this box if you have completed the Oregon Forest Pest Detector training, offered by Oregon State Extension.

Location

Drag the pin where you found the specimen (zoom in to provide the most accurate location) or enter an address or nearby intersection below:

Address



Map | Satellite

Case Study: Marion & Clackamas Detection

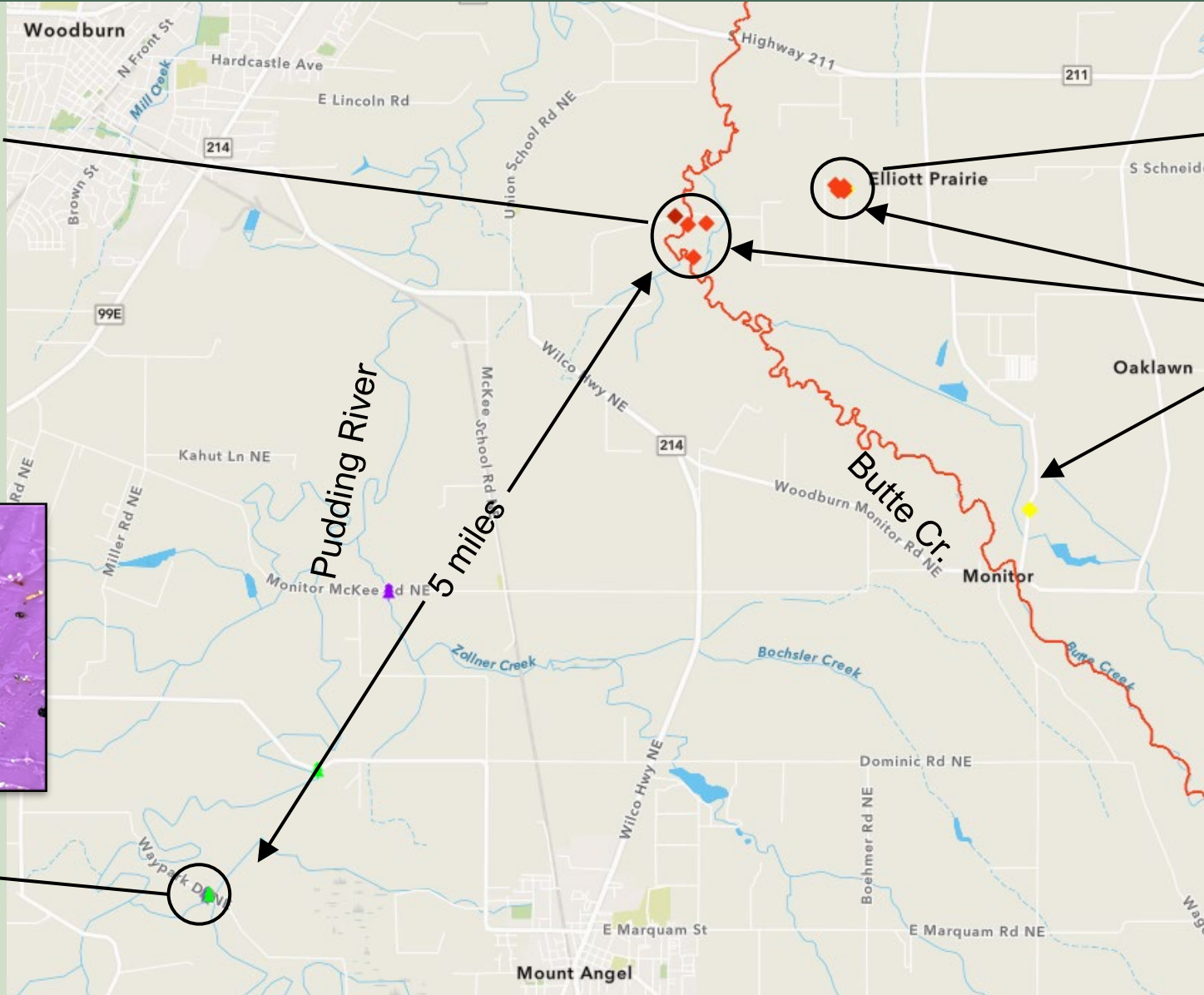


Tree survey

Hotline report

Tree survey

Clackamas/
Marion
County line



Pudding River
5 miles



Jul 30 purple trap

Managing EAB: Slow the Spread & Prepare



Slowing the spread of EAB will minimize its impact and give communities more time to prepare

- Don't move firewood!
 - Buy or collect it within 10 miles
- Follow the quarantine
- Stop planting ash trees
- Consult with an [ISA-certified arborist](#) about any ash trees you manage



Managing EAB: Active Quarantine

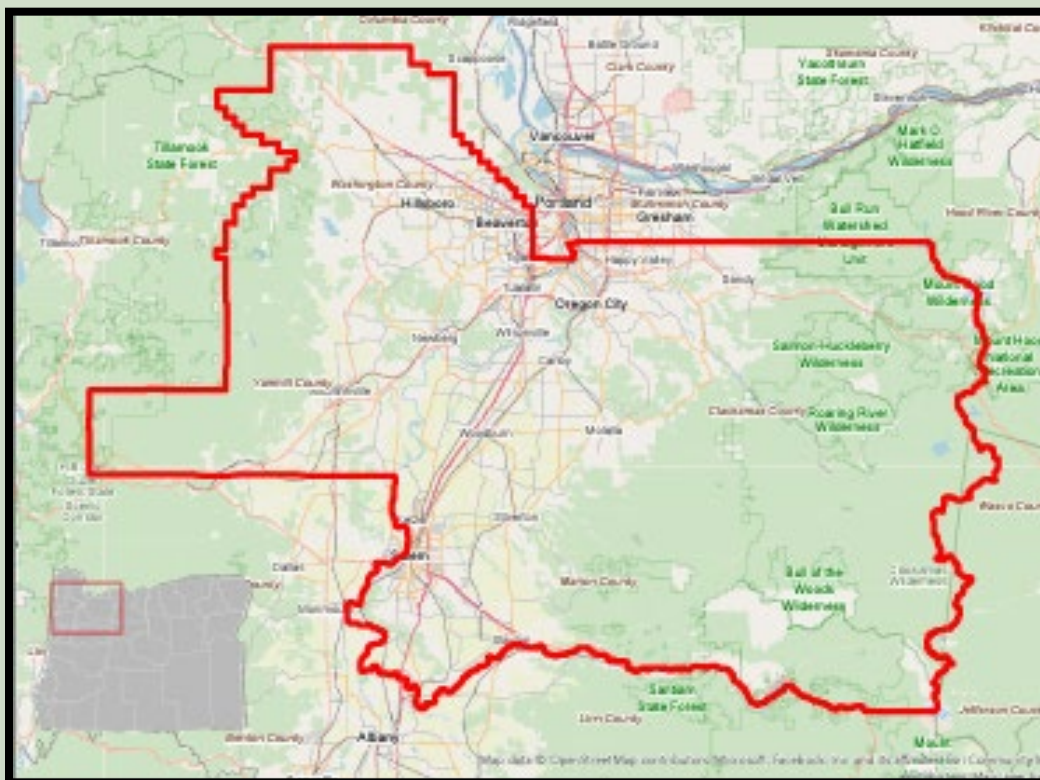


EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE ALERT



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

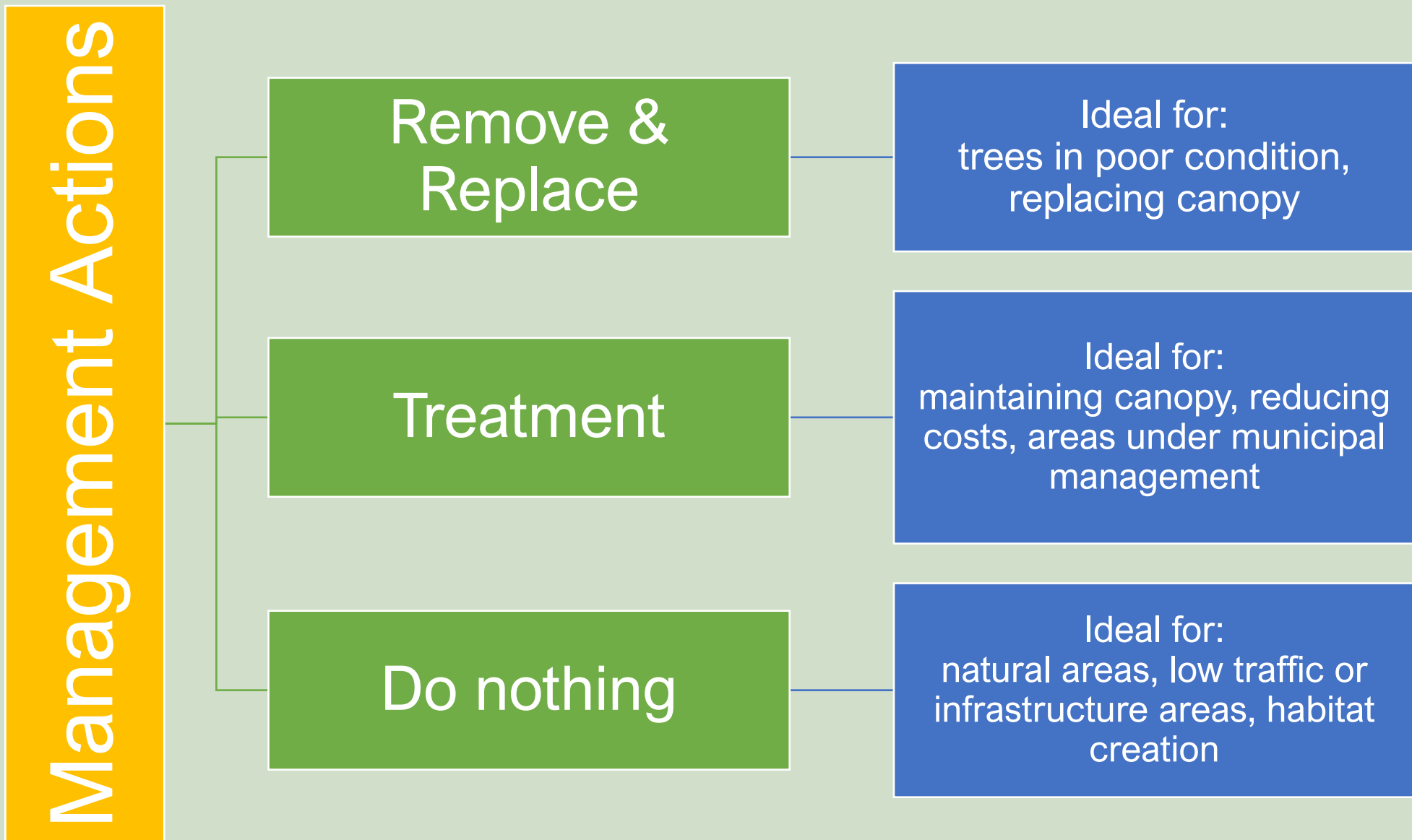
WASHINGTON, YAMHILL, MARION, CLACKAMAS COUNTIES, OREGON



1. Restricts movement of ash material (e.g., logs, nursery stock, chips, etc.)
2. Requires treatment (e.g. chip < 1”) and compliance agreement to move material outside quarantine
3. Limits ash tree removal and pruning to October 1 – April 30

[ODA EAB Quarantine Website](#)

EAB Management Options



Remove and Replace



Remove

- Small trees - minimize cost and canopy loss
- High risk trees – defective, dying, poorly sited
- Trees you can't treat
- **When:** while trees are still alive

Replace

- Diverse selection of species
- Mitigate tree loss issues

Cost: Expensive but risk is controlled



Comply with all local regulations
Obtain necessary permits
Plant approved species
Right tree, right place

**Consult with an ISA-
Certified Arborist**

Treatment



Always consider:

- Active ingredient efficacy
- Frequency of application
- Application method
- Potential non-target effects
- Whether pesticide applicator license is required

Consult with an ISA-Certified Arborist

Up to 95% effective, depending on treatment type and proper application

Which trees:

- Healthy, good condition trees
- Medium to large diameter
- Not feasible across entire landscape

When

- Must be repeated every 1-3 years

Cost: Typically cheaper than R&R, lowest risk

Treatment Options



Application Method	Active Ingredient	Application Frequency/ Timing	Effectiveness	Nontarget Species Impact	Pesticide Applicator License Required?
Systemic Trunk Injection	Emamectin benzoate	Once every 2-3 years in spring ⁺	Excellent, most effective treatment option	Low, if properly applied	Yes
	Azadirachtin	Once every 1-2 years in spring ⁺	Very good, varies by pest pressure	Low, if properly applied	No
	Imidacloprid (N)	Once every 1-2 years in spring ⁺	Inconsistent	Low, if properly applied	Yes
Trunk Spray	Dinotefuran (N)	Once per year in spring ¹⁺	Very good	Low to moderate if properly applied	No
Soil Injection/ Drench	Dinotefuran (N)	Once per year in spring ¹⁺	Inconsistent	Moderate to high	No
	Imidacloprid (N)	Once per year in spring ¹⁺	Inconsistent	Moderate to high	Yes
Cover Spray	Bifenthrin, Spinosad, Cyfluthrin	Two applications 4 weeks apart in late spring*	Fair	Moderate to high	Yes - Bifenthrin and Spinosad No - Cyfluthrin

Treatment Options



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Consult with an ISA-Certified Arborist

Emamectin Benzoate trunk injection

- **Efficacy:** Excellent
- **Application method & frequency:** Systemic trunk injection, once a year every 2-3 years
- **Non-target effects:** Low
- **Should be administered by a licensed pesticide applicator**

[ODF EAB Insecticide Treatment Fact Sheet](#)

Do Nothing



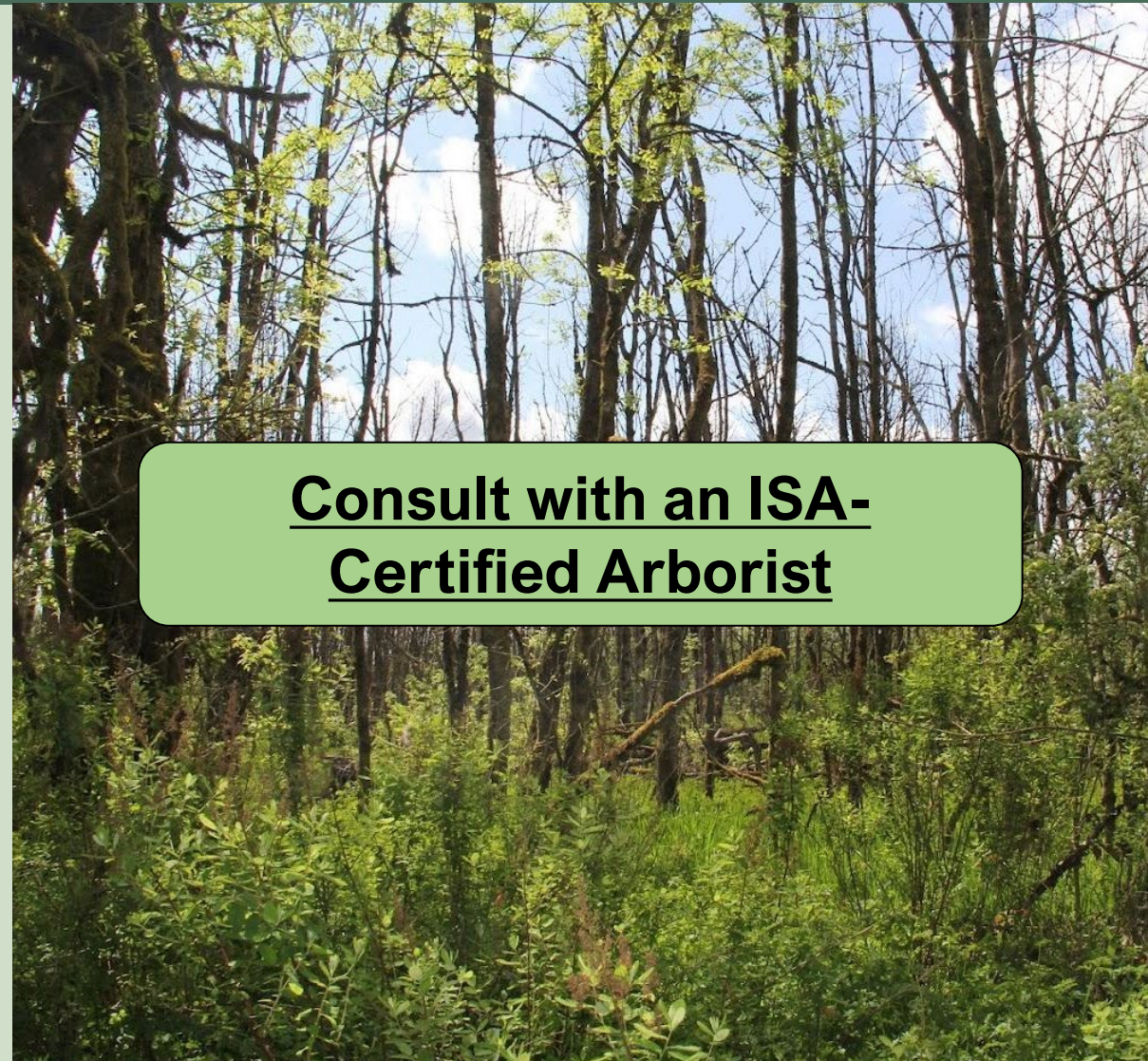
What happens:

- Ash tree die-off leads to increased risk
- Ecosystem impacts
 - Decreased shade, increased soil erosion
- Loss of community benefits including air quality, heat, mental health

Cost: Potentially the most expensive option in the long term

Appropriate for trees that are:

- Low risk, low target, in natural areas



Consult with an ISA-Certified Arborist

EAB Resources – OregonEAB.com



State Resources

- [Oregon's EAB Readiness and Response Plan](#)
- [ODF Forest Health Website](#)
- [Biological Control for EAB](#)

Identification and Fact Sheets

- [Ash Identification](#)
- [EAB Look-Alikes](#)
- [EAB Fact Sheet](#)
- ★ [EAB Quarantine](#)
- ★ [OSU EAB Resources](#)

- [Oregon Ash: Insects, Pathogens, and Tree Health](#)
- [OR Forest Pest Detector Training](#)
- [Alternatives to Ash in Western Oregon](#)
- [Recommendations for Tree Protection Against EAB](#)

Management Resources

- [10 Recommendations for Managing Ash](#)
- [Managing Northeastern Forests Threatened by EAB](#)
- [EAB Management Review](#)
- ★ [EAB Insecticide Treatment Fact Sheet](#)

Wood Use

- [Resource Directory of Wood Waste Professionals](#)
- [What To Do with Ash Wood](#)

Other Forest Management

- ★ [Find an Arborist](#)
- [Tree Risk Management](#)

Report Invasive Species

- [Reporting Potential EAB Insects or Infestations](#)



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Oregon

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) – commonly called EAB – is a destructive, invasive beetle that infests and kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* species). EAB has spread across North America since it was first detected in Michigan in 2002, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees. EAB was confirmed in Oregon in 2022, the first known case on the West Coast. Once EAB arrives in an area, it cannot be eradicated –which means it doesn't go away. Even though EAB will kill many ash trees in Oregon, there are steps we can take to slow its spread and limit its impacts.



Adult emerald ash borer beetle | David Cappaert

OSU EAB Resources



Oregon State
University

OSU Extension Service

TOPICS

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT

CONTACT US

[Home](#) / [Forests, woodlands and rangelands](#) / [Forest health and management](#)

Emerald ash borer resources

🌐 [English](#) | [Español](#)

OR Forest Pest Detector Training



Oregon State
University

OSU Extension Service

TOPICS

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT

CONTACT US



Programs

Oregon Forest Pest Detector

Treatment Fact Sheet (ODF)



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Insecticide Treatments



TREATMENT OVERVIEW

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a destructive, invasive beetle that infests and kills ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*). EAB adults lay their eggs on ash trees, and after hatching, the larvae burrow under the bark to feed on the tree, eventually cutting off its supply of water and nutrients. EAB has spread to many U.S. states since it was first detected in Michigan in 2002, killing nearly all ash trees in its path. Unfortunately, EAB cannot be eradicated; once it arrives in an area, it doesn't go away. EAB was confirmed in Forest Grove, Oregon in June 2022, the first known case on the West Coast. Because ash trees are common in parks, streets, yards, wetlands, and along waterways, their loss will have wide-reaching effects on health, environment, and economy. Properly treating individual ash trees with insecticides is the only way to protect them from an EAB infestation.

EAB Quarantine



EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE ALERT



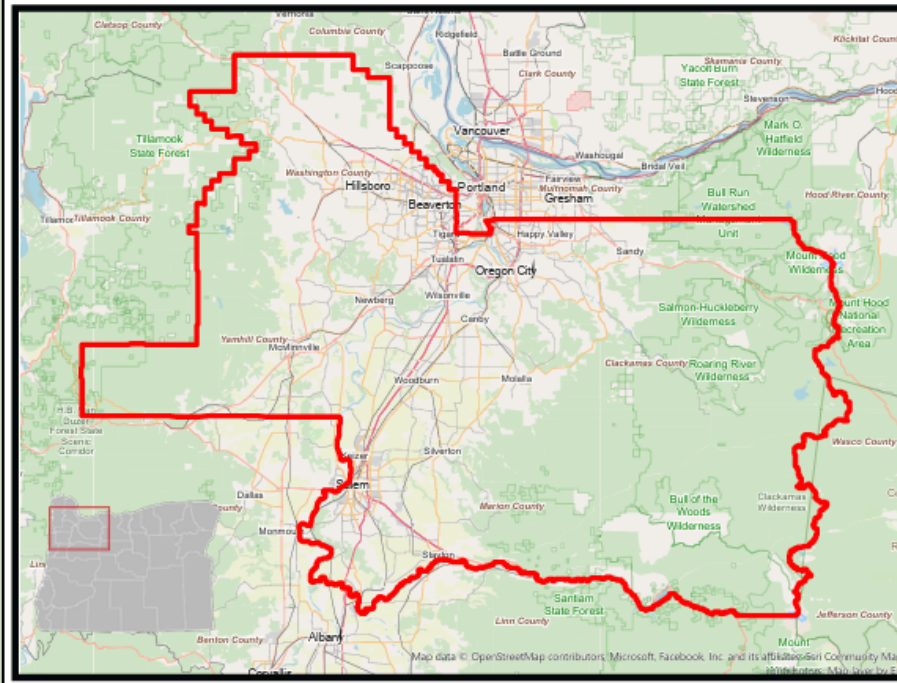
OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, YAMHILL, MARION, CLACKAMAS COUNTIES, OREGON

A permanent quarantine is now in effect. Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in three new counties, triggering an expansion of the quarantine. Tree materials of ash, olive, and white fringe tree, must remain within quarantined counties (Washington, Yamhill, Marion, Clackamas). Wood waste must be processed accordingly and disposed of.



Actual
Size
1/2 inch



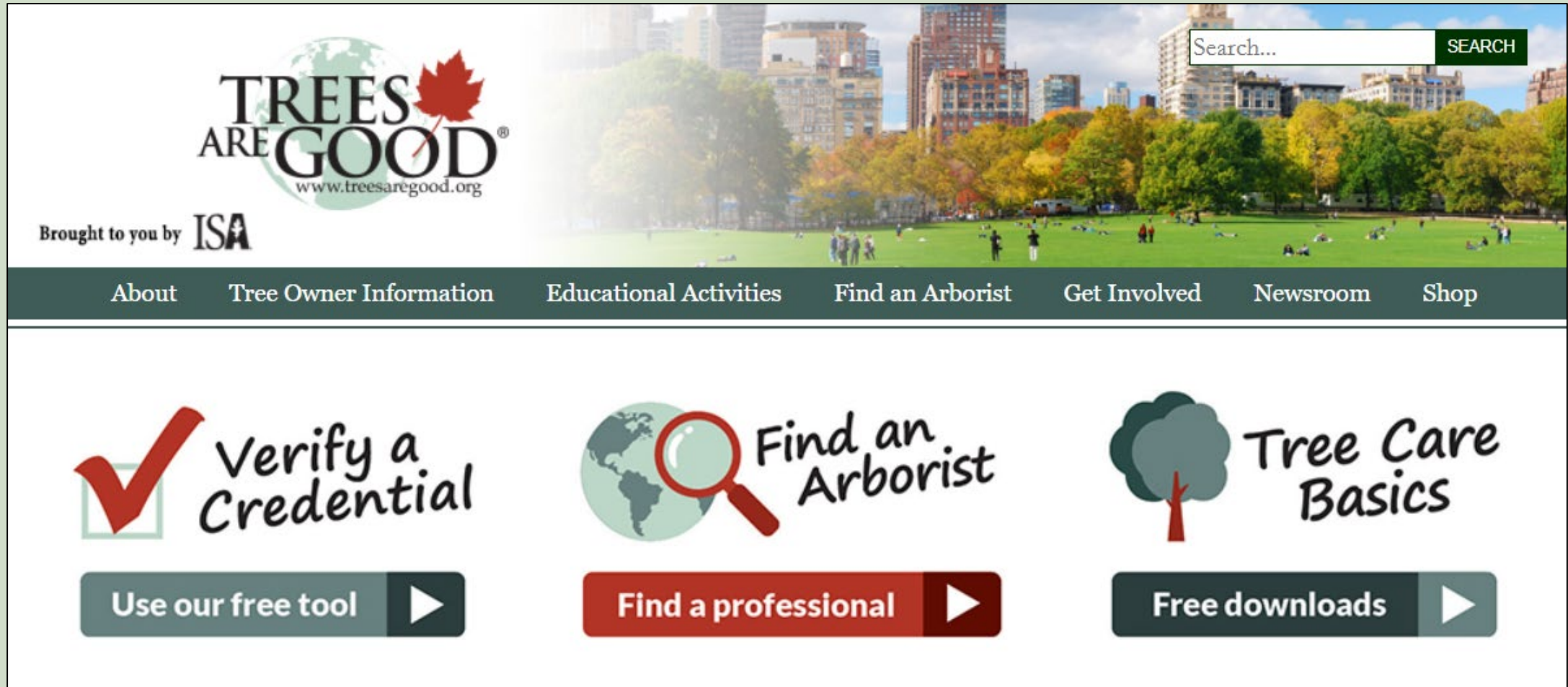
Regulated Ash, Olive, & White Fringe Tree Materials

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

Quarantine Exceptions

- Nurseries or groups that have a formal compliance agreement with ODA
- Seeds and leaves
- Processed lumber kiln dried, free of bark and material 1 inch below bark.
- Finished wood products without bark, including furniture, baskets,

Find an ISA-Certified Arborist



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Trees Are Good website. At the top left is the logo "TREES ARE GOOD" with a red maple leaf and the URL "www.treesaregood.org". Below it, it says "Brought to you by ISA". On the right, there is a search bar with the text "Search..." and a "SEARCH" button. A navigation menu below the search bar includes links for "About", "Tree Owner Information", "Educational Activities", "Find an Arborist", "Get Involved", "Newsroom", and "Shop". The background of the top section is a photograph of a park with many trees and people. Below the navigation menu, there are three main content areas, each with an icon, a title, and a button with a play icon:

- Verify a Credential**: Includes a red checkmark icon and a button labeled "Use our free tool".
- Find an Arborist**: Includes a magnifying glass over a globe icon and a button labeled "Find a professional".
- Tree Care Basics**: Includes a tree icon and a button labeled "Free downloads".

www.TreesAreGood.org

Thank you!



Lilah Gonen

Community Assistance Forester

Oregon Department of Forestry

Urban & Community Forestry

EAB Contact:

InvasivePests@odf.oregon.gov



Rich Hoeg