



Temporary quarantine adopted in Washington County to slow the spread of emerald ash borer

The temporary quarantine prohibits tree materials from all plant parts of ash, olive, and the white fringe tree, from movement outside Washington County.

In response to the discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has adopted a temporary EAB quarantine as per Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 603-052-0135), limiting the movement of ash, olive, and white fringe tree materials from Washington County. The purpose of the quarantine is to slow the spread of EAB through the restricted movement of tree materials to unaffected locations in the state. EAB is now considered the most destructive forest pest in North America, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees. This temporary quarantine will remain in effect until May 16, 2023. As more data becomes available, ODA will evaluate future quarantine parameters.

ODA confirmed EAB in several ash trees in Forest Grove in June 2022, the first confirmed sighting on the West Coast. So far, the state has only detected EAB within the city limits of Forest Grove in Washington County. The small, metallic-green beetle is native to Asia. Its larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing canopy dieback and ultimately, tree death. The ½ inch beetle is often challenging to detect, especially in newly infested trees. Signs of infestation include thinning and yellowing leaves, bark splitting, D-shaped holes in the tree bark, and basal shoots.

The Washington County EAB quarantine restricts the movement of several tree materials including but not limited to logs, green lumber, nursery stock, scion wood, bud wood, chips, mulch, stumps, roots, branches, and firewood of hardwood species.

ODA is establishing several processing and disposal resources in the area to limit the movement of ash, olive, and the white fringe tree materials to within the quarantine area. For a list of disposal sites and more information on EAB, please visit: ODA.direct/EAB.

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