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Upcoming Events - Save the Date!

August 18-20, 2022 - [California SAF Summer Meeting - The Caldor Fire](#), Pollock Pines, CA.

On-going into September, 2022 - [A Forest for the Trees](#), Downtown Los Angeles, CA.

September 27-28, 2022 - [International Conference on Forest Entomology, Harmful and Beneficial Insects](#), San Francisco, CA.

Emerald Ash Borer Makes its Move West!



Emerald Ash Borer Adult. Credit: Leah Bauer, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station .

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a highly destructive exotic wood boring beetle from Asia that has killed over 100 million ash trees in the Eastern U.S. and Canada. EAB spreads very easily in infested firewood, wood packing materials, and ash green waste, and all North American species of ash that it has encountered have been susceptible. It has been so devastating that the five dominant species of ash attacked and killed by EAB in the eastern U.S are now critically endangered. In California there are five native species of ash, none of which has been encountered by EAB to date.

Emerald ash borer is a very showy, bright metallic green color and is native to northeastern Asia. This insect has a very similar life cycle to the Goldspotted oak borer (GSOB), another exotic wood borer found in five Southern California counties. Unlike GSOB, the emerald ash borer has not been found in California but is established in Oregon, where it was found in Forest Grove (just west of Portland, Washington County) on June 30. Management efforts are underway in an attempt to contain EAB and limit its spread in Oregon. Unfortunately, there is no effective means of eradicating an entire population of EAB once the insect is established in an area.

To identify [emerald ash borer signs and symptoms](#) in your ash trees, here's what to look for:

- Thinning of the entire tree crown. Thinning begins at the top one-third of the crown and progresses downward.
- Bark splitting where EAB is feeding.
- Larval galleries beneath the bark that are packed with frass (a mix of sawdust and excrement) and have a meandering pattern.
- "D" shape exit holes – very similar to GSOB's "D" shape exit holes.
- Woodpecker feeding.
- Epicormic shoots sprouting from the base of the tree.
- The adult insect itself.

For more information and pictures of emerald ash borer, please visit the [Emerald Ash Borer Information Network](#).

If you see any of these signs and symptoms please contact your local [County Agricultural Commissioner](#), [CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Center](#), [USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry](#) or [CAL FIRE Forest Entomology and Pathology Specialist](#) for more information on how to proceed with identification and management.



The left photo shows bishop pine slash dropped at a tree base after utility line clearance pruning. On the coast, where this pruning was conducted in December 2021, mild conditions allow bark beetles to breed and infest trees year-round; two bark beetle species were found breeding in this slash shortly after it was created. By summer 2022, the lower part of the tree crown was dying (right). Credit: C. Lee, CALFIRE

The middle of a droughty summer seems like a good time to remind ourselves that when left piled in the forest, green conifer slash attracts bark beetles that can multiply, then infect and kill nearby conifers, even healthy ones. The problem is especially acute in pine species but can also potentially affect other conifers such as Douglas-fir and true firs. Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum No. 3 addresses best management practices for this problem with regard to pine engraver beetles in particular; it can be found on page 110 of the 2022 California Forest Practice Rules, https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/y5rhw50b/2022-fpr-and-fpa_ada.pdf.

Newsletter feedback and ideas are welcome. Please submit comments to caforestpestcouncil@gmail.com.

When buying firewood for camping or home heating this fall, remember to buy wood sourced local to where you will be using it, helping to minimize the spread of pests and diseases - **Buy It Where You Burn It**. For a list of local firewood dealers, go to firewoodscout.org.

Sincerely,

The California Forest Pest Council



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