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September 2025 Firewood & Forest Pests Newsletter



Graphic designed by DMF staff using Canva. **Did you know? The cooler temperatures and beautiful scenery that come with September and October make them big months for outdoor recreationists!**

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Webinar Alert! Firewood Month is Just Around the Corner!

The kids are back in school, the weather is cooling down, and Firewood Month (October) is right around the corner! Join us as we celebrate the time of year when many people head out with their families to enjoy crisp air and beautiful foliage. We've already got two excellent webinars scheduled and would love to hear from YOU!

Reach out to us [here](#) ASAP if you'd like to present on your work regarding forest pests that spread via the firewood pathway during our October webinar series!

Thursday, October 16th at 2pm EST

Beyond Wooden Thinking: Getting to the Heartwood of the Matter

Presentation by Dr. John Riggins, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Forest Health at Oregon State University

[Register HERE >>](#)

Wednesday, October 29th at 1pm EST

Updates on Emerald Ash Borer in the PNW

Presentation by Oregon Department of Forestry and Washington Invasive Species Council

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EAB NOW FOUND IN BELARUS

Did you know that North America isn't the only place where the emerald ash borer (EAB) is invading? The notorious hitchhiking pest has now made it beyond the Moscow Russia area and parts of Ukraine into Belarus for the first time, specifically in the Belarussian city of Gomel. During a reconnaissance survey in Gomel performed in June 2025, a total of 46 ash trees revealed characteristic symptoms of infestation including canopy dieback, epicormic sprouting, and D-shaped exit holes.

[Read the article here >>](#)

APHIS Removes New Mexico county from IFA Quarantine Area!

After three consecutive years of negative survey results, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has removed Doña Ana County, New Mexico from the imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta* and *S. richteri*; IFA) quarantine area. Doña Ana County was the only area in the state of New Mexico to be under quarantine for this pest- which can be transported in firewood that was stored in piles in direct contact with IFA infested soil.

[Read the full program update from APHIS here >>](#)

Upcoming Woodborer Workshop

Many of the pests that spread via the firewood pathway are woodborers, so we are happy to provide this courtesy announcement for the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). ODA will be holding a woodborer identification workshop the week of October 6 -10, 2025 in Wilsonville, Oregon. Woodborers include Buprestidae, Cerambycidae and Siricidae for the western US (and Siricidae for all of North America) and for target exotic pest species

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through. This will be an intense workshop! Most of each day for five days will be spent working with specimens at the microscope. Each day the workshop will go from 8am to 5pm with a one-hour lunch. There will be no field trips. The registration fee is \$215.26.

[See the Eventbrite page for more information and to register >>](#)

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Error in Linked Article included in August newsletter

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had a significant inaccuracy. The article by The Cool Down, titled: “*Officials take bold action in effort to slow spread of dangerous beetle: We’ll never stop the insect*” contained an error by stating that “researchers have found that ash trees in the Western U.S. have a genetic variation that could protect them from the beetle...” That’s not accurate, and it’s not clear how the authors of that article made such a significant error (it might have been a human mistake, or it might be an example of an AI-assisted summary gone awry- we don’t know). The original peer-reviewed journal article that this information appears to have been misinterpreted from (which discusses overall in-species genetic variation, but certainly not an identified particular resistant variation because no such thing exists) is titled “*Genomics-Driven Monitoring of Fraxinus latifolia (Oregon Ash) to Inform Conservation and EAB-Resistance Breeding*” and can be found [here](#).

Big thanks to our newsletter readers that pointed out this misinformation! We strive for accuracy and are always happy to hear from you- even if you are pointing out a problem!

Forest Pests In the News

[Avoid Ash Trees When Placing Deer Stands](#)

Wisconsin DNR, August 22 2025

[New website launches to address invasive wild pigs in Canada](#)

Animal Health Canada, August 20 2025

[To Help Iconic Trees, Inject Them With Disease](#)

Cool Green Science, August 11 2025

[Tracking a new forest pathogen killing beech trees](#)

Phys Org, August 11 2025

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