

About the Oregon Forest Pest Detector (OFPD) program

Purpose

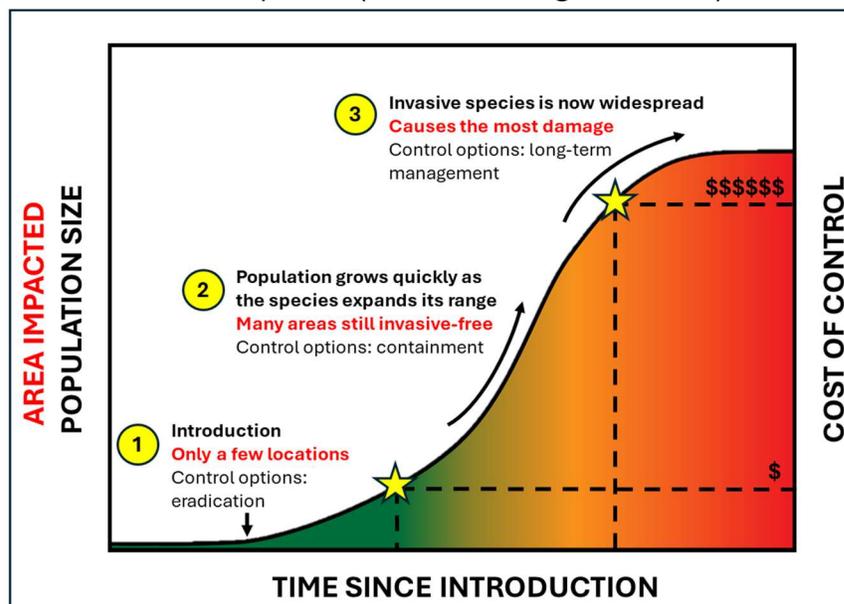
The purpose of the Oregon Forest Pest Detector program is to improve the likelihood **Early Detection and Rapid Response** (often abbreviated as EDRR) of **invasive species**. Invasive species are very harmful to Oregon forests. They can be a plant, an animal (which includes insects), or something that causes a disease, such as a Fungus. Whatever the cause, they either outcompete or outright kill important forest and urban trees. As trees die, we lose important habitat for birds, fish, and other animals; dead trees are hazardous and increase the risk of fires; dead trees can also be very expensive to remove.

The Oregon Forest Pest Detector program will assist with EDRR by increasing the number of skilled individuals that can recognize the signs and symptoms of the target pests and report suspected infestations.

Why is EDRR so important?

The importance of EDRR is usually illustrated by something called an **invasive curve**. Basically, an invasion curve shows how both the size of the invasive species' population and the costs of its management change over time. Most invasive species follow this pattern whereby:

- 1 When the invasive species is first introduced, its population size is relatively small and found in only a few locations. Eradication may be possible.
- 2 However as time goes on, the invasive species reproduces. As the population grows, it is more likely to spread to new areas and the magnitude of the damage it causes increases.
- 3 Eventually the invasive species becomes widespread. At this point the best we can do is learn to live with the invasive species (and the damage it causes).



The size of the population at the time of detection (indicated by ★), when we first know about the invasive species, directly impacts what we can do about the problem. Ideally we can contain or even eradicate invasive species. Either measure minimizes the amount of damage an invasive species can cause, as well as the cost of control. But these measures are only possible when the invasive species are **detected early** in the invasion timeline.

Early detection and rapid response is the cheapest and most effective way to manage invasive species.

Detection basics

When acting as an Oregon Forest Pest Detector, it is important to keep the following information in mind when you think you have found an invasive species:

- 1) **Know your host.** Many insects and diseases only affect a small number of tree host species. Some hosts have a limited geographical range (meaning the invasive species might, too). Knowing your host will also help you determine if what you are seeing is normal or not.
- 2) **Know your pest.** When identifying pests, you want to look for both the pest itself (called a sign) and the characteristic damage it causes (called symptoms). If you can positively identify multiple signs and symptoms of your invasive species, the odds are greater you have properly identified it.
- 3) **Know your look-alikes.** Many insects and diseases have look-alikes that are often confused with the invasive species. Some of these may be native and beneficial to Oregon forests!

Before you report:

- Check to make sure you have **properly identified your tree**, and can verify the tree is a host of the invasive species in question.
- Check for all **signs** and **symptoms** of the invasive.
- Check to see if your suspect pest has a **look-alike**.

General resources on invasive species management in Oregon

Oregon Forest Pest Detectors

<https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/Oregon-Forest-Pest-Detector>

- Free online training covering early detection and reporting, plus how to identify and report pests of concern **** revamped version will be available soon!**

Oregon Invasive Species Council

<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/>

- Invasive species profiles and alerts:
<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/infohub>
- Oregon Statewide plans for invasive species management
<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/statewide-plans>
- Oregon invasive species hotline for pest reporting:
<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthealth.aspx>

- Forest Health Highlights (annual report)
- Oregon Tree Health Threats Bulletin (monthly newsletter)
- Various factsheets about native and non-native tree pests

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA): Insect Pest Prevention and Management

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/ippm/Pages/default.aspx>

- Where to find information about urban and agricultural invasive insect pests and management programs:
 - Spongy moth
 - Emerald ash borer
 - Japanese beetle
 - Spotted lantern fly
- Pest alerts – fact sheets about the major insect pests of concern
- Resources on insect identification

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

- Where to find your county's office contact & misc. pest management resources

Information on the management of some invasive species covered in this talk

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

EAB in Oregon geohub:

<https://oregon-eab-geo.hub.arcgis.com/>

- A repository of EAB information
- Map of EAB detections and quarantine areas in Oregon

OSU Extension:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/emerald-ash-borer-resources>

- Guidelines on how to protect your trees from EAB
- Identification resources

Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

<https://www.oregonsod.org/>

- Information for homeowners, small woodland owners, resource managers, and conservation groups to recognize, prevent, and manage Sudden Oak Death.

Oregon Plant Clinic: <https://bpp.oregonstate.edu/plant-clinic/submit-sample/how-submit-plant-materials>

- Where to submit samples if you are concerned about *P. ramorum* (or any other plant pathogen)

Spongy Moth

ODA Spongy moth page: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/ippm/survey-treatment/pages/spongy-moth.aspx>

- Current updates on spongy moth detections
- Information on the effects of spongy moth treatment on non-target species

National spongy moth Slow-The-Spread program: <https://www.slowthespread.org/>

- Repository of spongy moth (AKA gypsy moth) information
- Maps of the current spongy moth distribution and management programs