

# Mediterranean Oak Borer Tree Removal Process

The presence of Mediterranean oak borer (MOB; *Xyleborus monographus*) in Wilsonville is of high concern. The MOB is an invasive, tiny, wood boring beetle called an “ambrosia beetle.” Ambrosia beetles do not feed on wood directly, but instead cultivate fungus grow in the tunnels (galleries) they create in the wood. While there are native ambrosia beetles, the MOB carries fungi that have been connected to a tree disease called oak wilt that can kill an oak tree in 2-3 years.

If your Oregon white oak tree is displaying any of the symptoms , it is imperative that you follow the process below to prevent the spread of this invasive pest.



## Step 1: Report

Report the suspected tree to the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline (<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>). It is a quick and easy online process that alerts representatives at Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) .

## Step 2: Confirm

Obtain confirmation from a representative from ODA or ODF that MOB is present in your tree.

## Step 3: Contact City

Report the confirmed infestation to City staff with the Wilsonville Planning Division ([Planning@ci.wilsonville.or.us](mailto:Planning@ci.wilsonville.or.us), (503)682-4960). This can either be done by the property owner or by a certified arborist hired to assess the tree.

## Step 4: Treatment

If the tree has not lost 30% or more of its canopy or has limited or no evidence of MOB, treatment could be an option. Contact City staff ([Planning@ci.wilsonville.or.us](mailto:Planning@ci.wilsonville.or.us), (503)682-4960) if you plan to treat your tree(s). Companies focused on tree health should be able to recommend up-to-date treatment options. If the tree has been impacted enough to warrant removal, continue to Step 5

## MOB Symptoms

- Dying scaffold/leader branches



- Frass (fine, powdery sawdust) on trunk or at base



- 1/10 inch borer holes or MOB beetles



## **Step 5: Emergency Removal Permit**

If removal is needed, arborists and tree care companies (or the property owner) must obtain an Emergency Tree Removal Permit from the Wilsonville Planning Division. Staff will confirm that the infested tree can be removed and will share up to date information on appropriate disposal and resources as available.

## **Step 6: Disposal**

Contact City staff immediately after removal to coordinate disposal. Below are the current best practices for disposal that does not further spread MOB.

Per ODA, the best disposal method is to burn the tree on-site, but this is not a feasible solution when the tree is located in an urban area with residences and businesses in close proximity. Coordination with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) is required.

The second best disposal method is to break down the tree into the smallest pieces possible and transport the woody debris in a completely enclosed truck to an incinerator for disposal.

If an incinerator is not available or feasible, the next best disposal method is to chip the wood into one (1) inch pieces, or as small as possible (1"-3" is the recommended range). The chips should be left on site and completely covered in visqueen or other heavy plastic sheeting until burning is possible.

## **Step 7: Plant a Tree**

Replant a tree, when required. Communicate with the Wilsonville Planning Division to determine if replanting is required and what tree can be replanted, and to find out if there are any upcoming citywide tree plantings planned.