

# Early Detection of Invasive Pests Community Science Project

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**Reports to:** Plant Taxonomist/Herbarium Curator

## Program Description

The Early Detection of Invasive Pests Project aims to survey and report on the presence/absence of three non-native plant pests that are not yet present at Hoyt Arboretum. Volunteers will be assigned a site with an insect trap or tree(s) to regularly observe and monitor for spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*), or Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*).

Regular monitoring for these destructive pests will help us to best protect Hoyt Arboretum and the surrounding natural areas from their potential damages. The three species are currently not present or established in the Arboretum, but - due to our tree diversity and high number of visitors - have a likelihood of expanding their range. Outcomes for this project are to develop an ongoing monitoring process for these pests at Hoyt Arboretum and to serve as a model of an early detection sentinel survey program for other public gardens.

## Responsibilities

- Become familiar with the tree species and locations or traps to be surveyed, and learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of these three insect pests
- Visit and regularly survey your assigned tree(s), insect trap or site weekly during the growing season (approximately May through October)
- Record observations and submit data monitoring sheets
- Report volunteer service hours

## Qualifications

- Willingness to expand knowledge of tree and insect identification skills
- Comfortable spending time outdoors and walking on trails
- Ability to follow monitoring standards and correctly fill out datasheets
- All volunteers must pass a background check

## Time Requirements

Volunteers should be available to monitor their assigned tree(s), site or insect trap **weekly**. Each monitoring visit should include enough time to locate and arrive at your assigned site, complete the monitoring (approximately 5 to 10 minutes per tree or trap), and another 1 to 2 minutes to fill-in your observation form. Volunteers are encouraged to be available for a minimum **6-month commitment**.

## Training

Early Detection for Insect Pests volunteers are required to attend an introductory training session and a second field session. During the training, volunteers will:

- Learn about Hoyt Arboretum, Hoyt Arboretum Friends and its partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation
- Learn about potential host trees and sites, and how to recognize the signs and symptoms of select insect pests
- Choose at least one tree species, site, or insect trap to regularly monitor during the growing season
- Learn to fill out the monitoring form and submit collected data

## Benefits

Hoyt Arboretum volunteers are eligible for an annual Washington Park volunteer parking pass and complimentary membership with HAF after **15 volunteer hours** have been completed. Benefits include a 20% discount in the Visitor Center, discounts on classes, monthly Lunch & Learn sessions, off-site field trip opportunities, invitations to members-only events, and an annual volunteer appreciation celebration.

**To Apply:** Please email [volunteer@hoytarboretum.org](mailto:volunteer@hoytarboretum.org) or call (503) 823-1649 for more information.