

## Goldspotted Oak Borer Reaches Simi Valley

Oak populations throughout Ventura County at risk



**GSOB infestation.** Credit: Center for Invasive Species Research, University of California Riverside.

Goldspotted oak borer has been decimating wildland and urban oak populations in Southern California for almost 20 years. The non-native beetle has reached Ventura County. State foresters detected two distinct infestations in the eastern part of the county in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains. A small isolated infestation of three trees was identified on a private parcel in Box Canyon. The other detection is on public lands and may be more widespread into adjacent open space. The new detections were recently discussed in the following Los Angeles Times article: ['It is scary': Oak-killing beetle reaches Ventura County, significantly expanding range - Los Angeles Times](#).

Primary hosts for goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) include California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Coast live oak is the dominant oak species in the county and ranges from the coast to the inland mountains of Los Padres National Forest.

Ongoing research since GSOB inception in the state determines that spread has been primarily initiated by movement or storage of infested firewood. The beetle rarely flies distances and generally moves only between nearby trees. GSOB spends over 90% of its lifecycle in the bark of the oak and emerges only briefly to mate and lay eggs. This cryptic species causes damage to the trees over a period of several years once the oak is infested.

UC ANR and CAL FIRE request the public become involved as observers. There is no known effective means of trapping the beetle. We encourage groups and individuals to learn how to recognize signs of possible infestation, how to prevent spread, and where to report a possible outbreak.

A free public GSOB Blitz will be held Friday, February 13, 10:30am – 2pm, at Santa Susana Park & Railroad, 6503 Katherine Road, Simi Valley 93063. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yb9kgkzTj59Cftyg6>. The Blitz will teach GSOB basics

in a field setting. *Registration required:* [Register- GSOB Blitz Ventura County](#). The following article discusses the first GSOB Blitz held in 2025: [Volunteers track invasive beetle threatening California oak trees](#).

The UC ANR website GSOB.org is a site that offers the reader numerous resources, including and not limited to: GSOB overview, management of infestations and infested wood, scientific information and research, maps, a reporting tool, listserv for GSOB updates, and more.

Contact Julie Clark – UC Cooperative Extension, Ventura County for more information or with questions: [jdclarkdeblasio@ucanr.edu](mailto:jdclarkdeblasio@ucanr.edu) , (805) 645-1461.