

Tree Pest and Disease Factsheet: Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

What to look out for on Ash

1. Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)



healthy leaf (left); diseased leaf (right)

Key facts

- Fungal disease introduced from Asia into Europe
- First observed in the UK in 2012
- Young ash trees die from infection faster than mature trees
- Trees in ash-dominated woodlands are likely to decline more quickly than trees in open settings
- There is no cure, but some trees may be tolerant to the disease

Key symptoms - Summer

- Blackened and wilting leaves
- Dead branches high up in the canopy
- Diamond-shaped lesions (wounds) on the bark
- Clumps of new growth towards the centre of the canopy

Key symptoms - Winter

- Diamond-shaped lesions on the bark
- Dead branches

What to do if you suspect ash dieback on your site

- Report your sighting via TreeAlert (see below)
- Do not remove your ash trees unless the dieback presents a health and safety risk, as ash trees support many other plant and animal species



canopy dieback



wilting, dying leaves



diamond-shaped stem lesion

2. Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)



- **NOT** thought to be present in the UK yet
- It is an exotic beetle native to East Asia, which has now spread as far west as Ukraine. It is also a major pest in North America.
- Beetle activity on trees is common and can be caused by several species. If you observe the distinctive green beetle, report your sighting immediately via TreeAlert

Pest and Disease Reporting

- If you spot a pest or disease, report your concerns through the Forestry Commission's online reporting tool TreeAlert at treealert.forestryresearch.gov.uk
- Make sure you clean boots and equipment before and after site visits, to remove any mud and debris that can transmit pests and diseases

