

Advice to Members of the Public:

Ash dieback disease - *Chalara fraxinea* is being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures and it is important that suspected cases of the disease are reported immediately.

Ash dieback is caused by a fungal disease that has been recently introduced to Britain from contaminated nursery stock imported from Holland. Unfortunately, as many people will be aware it has now been identified in native and ancient ash woodlands in the south-east of Britain, which has led to large scale felling of affected trees and those at risk of being affected. It is estimated that there are some 80 million native ash trees across Britain.

The disease is likely to spread to other part of the UK, if not contained. It has the potential to have a devastating affect on existing ash trees, on par with Dutch Elm disease, which virtually wiped out native elm trees during the 70s and 80s. The disease has the potential to devastate the landscape in both our towns and countryside.

The vigilance of local people will help to identify affected trees early and enable the implementation of a planned and systematic approach to the management of affected trees within the district. The management of affected trees must be undertaken in line with recommendations and guidance set out by the Forestry Commission.

Lancaster City Council has sought advice from the Forestry Commission. We will continue to work and provide assistance to the Commission, in any way that we can, to try to ensure that we are able to respond appropriately and effectively, should an outbreak of the disease occur.

Information on what to look for on affected trees is available from the Forestry Commission, online at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>

The vigilance of local people will help to identify affected trees which must then be reported immediately to one of the following authorities.

Important Advice:

Please report any sightings of affected trees, at once. The disease is most likely to be found in newly planted young trees, however, early-mature and mature trees can become affected.

If you think you have seen ash trees that have the disease you should report it to one of the following Forestry Commission or Fera addresses:

- **Forest Research Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service**
Telephone 01420 23000
Email ddas.ah@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- **Forestry Commission Plant Health Service**
Telephone 0131 314 6414
Email plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- **Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate**
Telephone 01904 465625
Email planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Ash dieback disease

(*Chalara fraxinea*)



1
Diseased saplings typically display dead tops and/or side shoots.



2
At the base of dead side shoots, lesions can often be found on the subtending branch or stem.



3
Lesions which girdle the branch or stem can cause wilting of the foliage above.



4
Mature trees affected by the disease initially display dieback of the shoots and twigs at the periphery of their crowns. Dense clumps of foliage may be seen further back on branches where recovery shoots are produced.

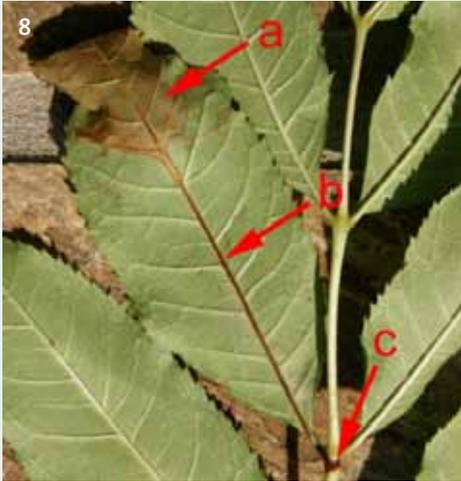


6
In late summer and early autumn (July to October), fruiting bodies of *Hymenoscyphus* can be found on blackened rachises (leaf stalks) of ash in damp areas of leaf litter beneath trees. These do not necessarily belong to the pathogen but can be tested to determine their identity.



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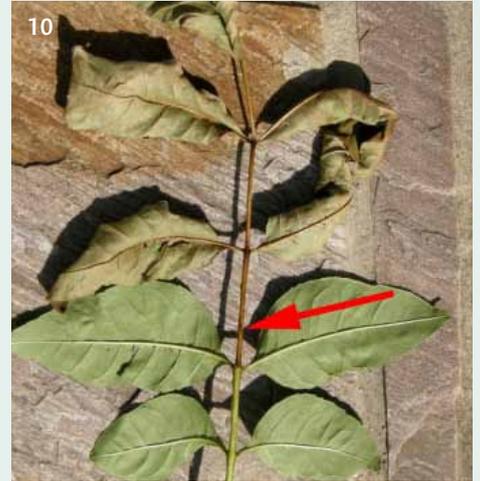
(Chalara fraxinea)



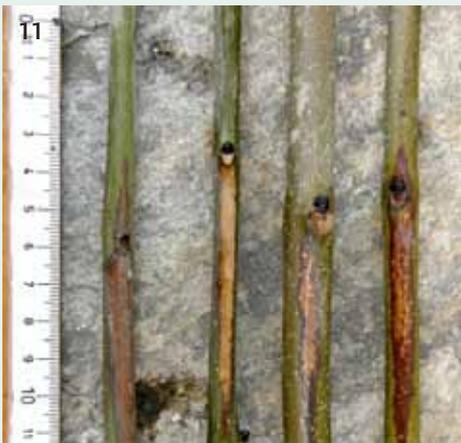
Leaf necrosis (a) extending into leaflet vein (b) and rachis (c).



Lesion on rachis (ends arrowed) without leaflet symptoms.



Necrosis of rachis (arrowed) and associated desiccation of leaflets.



Developing lesions associated with leaf scars.



Older lesion associated with leaf scar.



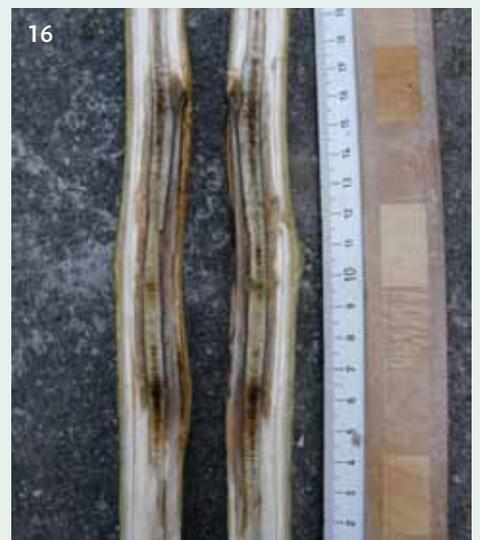
Developing lesion centred on a dead side shoot.



Older lesion centred on a dead side shoot.



Old lesion centred on a dead side shoot.



The wood and pith underlying bark lesions is usually strongly stained.

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