

# CHALARA FRAXINEA - ASH DIEBACK DISEASE

## Summary

This report provides details of main diseases in Trees and provides a detailed briefing regarding the symptoms and management actions being taken to control Ash Dieback.

## Background

The Forestry Commission lists 15 pests and diseases present in Britain that pose a threat to tree health. Four of these are common and prominent in Nottingham. Ash dieback is of concern and Nottingham City Council is following government guidance in order to report any sightings and manage appropriately should it arrive in the City.

Whilst a diversity of species provides a varied and interesting mix, trees are susceptible to the impacts of pests and diseases. Where there is a high proportion of a single species or closely related species of trees, the impact of diseases on the landscape, the urban forest and its benefits can be significant.

Unfortunately tree disease is not an uncommon phenomenon in the UK, demonstrated by the ravages of Dutch elm disease since the 1960's. Currently the Forestry Commission lists 15 pests and diseases present in Britain that pose a major threat to tree health. This includes species that are common and prominent in Nottingham, including:

1. **Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)**  
Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*)
2. **Oak (*Quercus robur*)**  
Acute Oak Decline  
Chronic Oak Decline
3. **London Plane (*Plantanus Hispanica*)**  
*Splanchnonema platani*
4. **Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)**  
Bleeding canker disease (*Pseudomonas syringae*)

## Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) Disease Profile

Ash dieback is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees and usually leads to tree death. Ash trees with the infection have been found widely across Europe since 1992. In February 2012 it was found in a consignment of infected trees sent from a nursery in the Netherlands to a nursery in Buckinghamshire. Since then it has been found in young ash trees in a number of variety of locations in Great Britain. Ash dieback is now being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures and any suspected sighting should be reported.

## Signs of Ash dieback



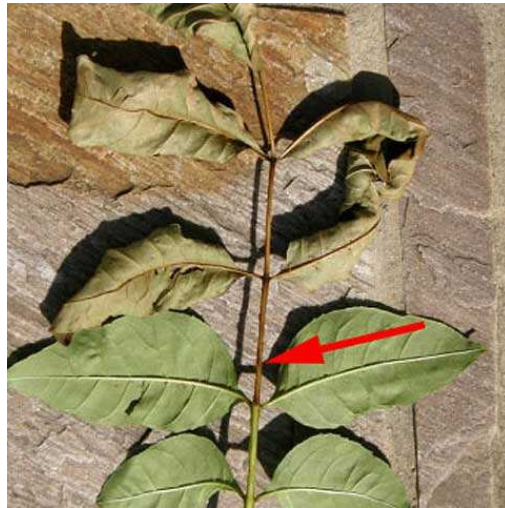
Dead or dying tops of trees



Wilting leaves



Lesions and cankers



Dieback of leaves



Fruiting bodies on fallen blacked leaf stalks

## Current Situation National / Nottingham

524 sites have been recorded as having Ash dieback; the majority of which in recently planted sites. Below is a distribution map from the Forestry Commission

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara#Distribution>



## **Proactive Management**

Nottingham City Council Tree Services are in accordance to advice from the Forestry Commission put in place a strategic plan to monitor and identify Ash dieback that may take hold in the city.

We have, using our database identified 2057 notable ash trees which will be “spot checked” at regular intervals by all staff. Staff have been briefed and educated on the signs and symptoms and measures to carry out in accordance with present guidelines set by the Forestry Commission as part of their normal duties.

Woodlands will also be incorporated and a “walk through inspection” to highlight any potential outbreaks will be part of the services routine.

We will investigate all enquiries from citizens regarding potential Ash dieback cases and resolve expediently.

At present no outbreaks in the city boundary have been identified, if however Ash dieback is found we will follow guidelines set by the Forestry commission in the removal and disposal.

## **Guidelines for disposal of infected timber**

The legislation passed in Great Britain on Monday, 29th October 2012, was primarily aimed at restricting the importation and movement of ash trees for planting, because these carry the highest risks of spreading the *Chalara fraxinea* fungus, which causes Ash dieback.

Ash wood may continue to be moved within Great Britain except from woodlands or other sites where *C. fraxinea* has either been confirmed or is suspected, and a statutory Plant Health Notice has been served. Ash logs or firewood may only be moved off these infected sites with authority from the Forestry Commission. The conditions for the movement of infected ash wood are currently under consideration.

In woodlands and sites where no infection is suspected, we recommend the simple precaution of removing leaf material from logs or firewood whilst on site, as a precaution against the possibility that the disease is not obviously apparent and could be spread unintentionally with logs and firewood. Cases of suspected Ash dieback will be reported to Defra or the Forestry Commission.

## **What we are doing about Tree Diseases**

- Keeping a watching brief on government guidance for existing and new diseases
- Reporting any diseases to the relevant organisations
- Monitoring of trees through planned inspections
- Awareness raising with colleagues and citizens where necessary
- Implement the Urban Forestry Strategy
- Working with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to manage horse chestnut trees at Clifton Grove with bleeding canker

- Working with colleagues in Planning to ensure a planting scheme including a more diverse range of trees are planted along the lines of the NET Phase Two
- Look at opportunities for tree planting

### **Forestry Commission Guidance**

#### **Reporting suspected cases**

If you think you have spotted the disease, please check:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>

[Symptoms video](#)

[Symptoms guide](#)

[Guide to recognising ash trees](#)



before using our [Tree Alert form](#)

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