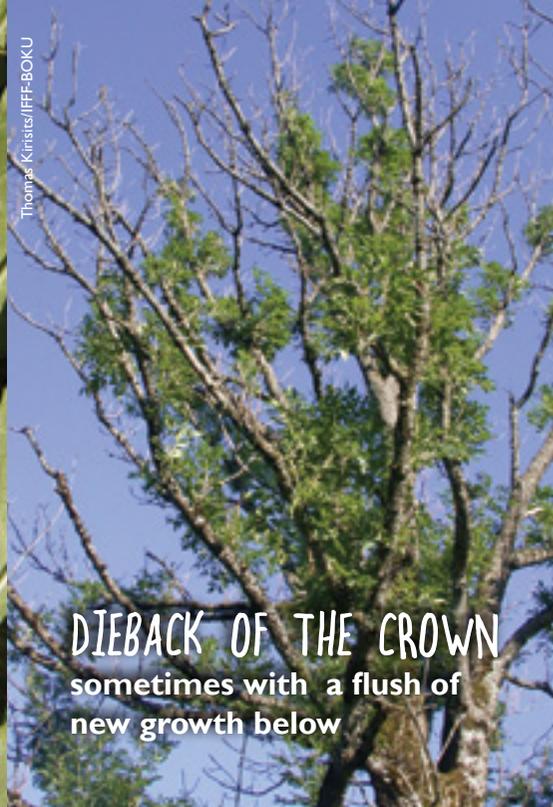


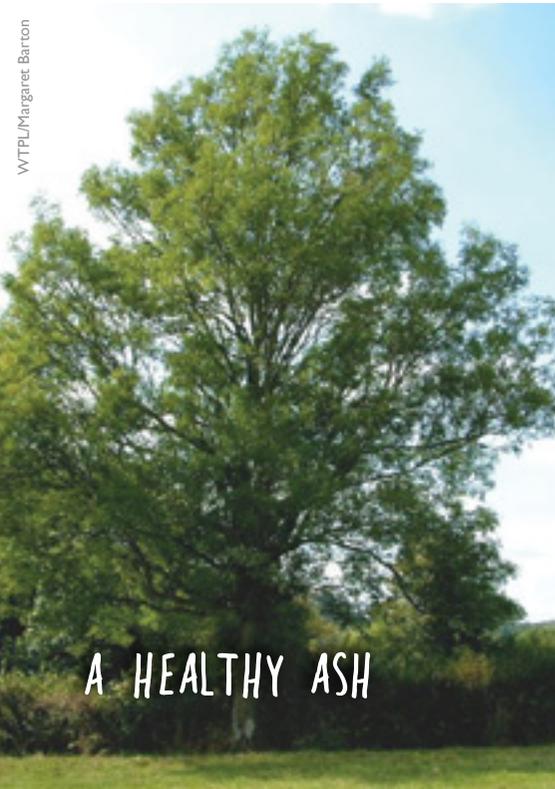
ASH DIEBACK (*CHALARA FRAXINEA*) POCKET GUIDE



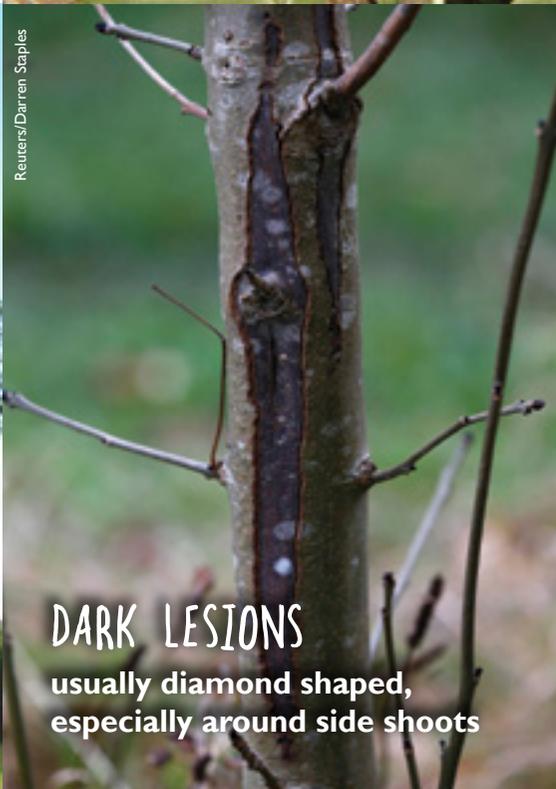
BLACKENING OF LEAVES
extending into leaf veins
and stalks



DIEBACK OF THE CROWN
sometimes with a flush of
new growth below



A HEALTHY ASH



DARK LESIONS
usually diamond shaped,
especially around side shoots



PALE FUNGI
tiny fungi grow on damp leaf
stalks in early autumn. Testing
will identify any association
with the disease

What is ash dieback?

Ash dieback is caused by a fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*. It causes leaf loss, lesions on the bark and dieback of the crown of the common ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The disease is spread by spores from the fruiting bodies of the fungus on dead leaves and is threatening the UK's 80 million ash tree population. Infected trees usually die.

This handy guide will help you identify symptoms in your garden, nearby woods or hedgerows and tell you what to do if you find signs of ash dieback.

There are several key signs to look out for on the following images.

Please report any sightings of the disease immediately

In England and Wales

Chalara helpline: 08459 33 55 77
(open 8am – 6pm every day)
plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Fera: 01904 465625
planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk

In Scotland

Forestry Commission Scotland: 0131 314 6156
(9am – 5pm weekdays & out of hours
messaging system)
fcscotlandenquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

In Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development (Northern Ireland): 0300 200 7847
dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk

ASH (FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR)

About the ash

Ash is a native, deciduous tree with pale grey bark and distinctive black-budded twigs. It comes into leaf around May, flowers in April and produces ash keys as seeds in autumn. The 'pinnate' structure of ash leaves (with many leaflets along either side of the main leaf stem) creates an open canopy that light can penetrate. This allows a rich variety of plants to grow beneath the trees such as carpets of beautiful bluebells, wild garlic and dog's mercury.

Ash is very important for wildlife

It supports more than 100 species of insect, including 60 of the rarest. A tree can live for centuries, providing habitat for deadwood species such as the lesser stag beetle and birds like owls, woodpeckers and nuthatch which nest in the hollows.



How do we use ash trees?

Ash wood is strong and flexible, able to withstand pressure and splintering. Anglo-Saxons used it for spears and tools – today it is a popular wood for furniture-making and laminates. Ash also coppices well, producing excellent firewood.



Precautions when visiting woods

If you're heading out for a woodland walk, help slow the spread of the disease by taking some simple precautions:

- Do not remove any plant material (firewood, sticks, leaves or cuttings) from the woodland
- Where possible, before leaving the woodland, clean soil, mud, leaves and other plant material from footwear, clothing, dogs, horses, the wheels and tyres of bicycles, baby buggies, carriages and other vehicles, and remove any leaves which are sticking to your car
- Before visiting other countryside sites, parks, garden centres and nurseries, thoroughly wash footwear, wheels and tyres in soapy water
- Follow the instructions on any signs.



The alkaline bark

of ash supports specialist lichens and mosses. Its leaves provide food for moths while brown hairstreak butterflies breed in the canopy.



Ash or Rowan?

The rowan or 'mountain ash', *Sorbus aucuparia*, is not a true ash tree. It's actually a member of the rose family, *Rosaceae*, and is not at risk from ash dieback. Ash trees are from the olive family, *Oleaceae*.



ASH

ROWAN

woodlandtrust.org.uk/treedisease

Our native woodland is facing real and growing threats and we need to take action NOW – with your support we can make a difference.

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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