

Chalara Dieback

Chalara Fraxinea

Chalara Fraxinea responsible for ash die-back within the UK is a quarantine pathogen under national emergency measures; it is important to report any suspected cases to the relevant authorities.

The disease caused by a fungus known as Chalara Fraxinea, causes premature leaf loss and crown dieback in ash trees which can ultimately lead to death in infected trees. Ash trees suffering with symptoms from Chalara Fraxina are increasingly being found across Europe and now have been confirmed at a number of sites in the east of the country.

Chalara Fraxinea Symptoms –

Chalara Fraxinea can be visible on leaves, shoots and branches of infected trees. In severe cases, the entire crown can show leaf loss and dieback. Secondary effects include epicormic shoot growth (suckering) on branches and the trees trunk.

The Foliage –

Leaves will be seen to be wilting, having a black-brownish discolouration that occurs at the leaf base and midrib. Dieback and blackening of shoots and twigs then normally follows.

Branches and Stems –

Small dark lesions or spots appear on the bark of the stems and branches and enlarge to form raised cankers over a period of months.

The Tree –

Ash trees seen with withered tops and shoots during the growing seasons are typical of infection. Symptoms of heavily infected trees include extensive shoot, twig and branch dieback and exceptional epicormic shoot growth. Chalara Fraxinea has also been isolated from the roots of affected trees.

How the disease spreads –

How Chalara Fraxinea spreads is at present uncertain, but being fungal in origin local spread may be via rain splash, insects or windbourne distribution of spores. Over longer distances the risk of spread is most likely to be from the movement and transportation of diseased ash trees. Movement of logs or un-sawn wood from infected trees may also be a means of spread for the disease.

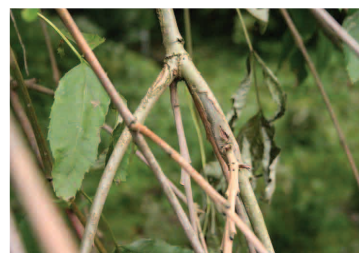
It is important that infected trees and the wood from them are not moved from the tree site. Infected trees are unlikely to be immediately structurally dangerous. If trees are felled all tools and equipment must be sterilised before leaving the inspection site. No wood or debris is to be taken off the site.

Presently control consists of felling of infected trees and burning on site.

Bartlett Tree Experts are presently undertaking trials of suitable fungicides but their use could only be recommended after extensive and thorough scientific investigation and with the permission of the appropriate authority.



**Ash Dieback -
Chalara Fraxinea
Symptoms**



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