



Ash Dieback along a bridleway in Canterbury, Kent

Do you have

ASH DIEBACK?

Hymenoscyphus fraxineus

There are approximately 2.2 million Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in Kent. Once infected, the survival rate of ash trees can vary. Few trees may show resilience and recover, most will succumb to the disease.

The majority of infected ash trees will die!

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What is Ash Dieback (ADB)?

1

Ash Dieback, caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, is a **serious threat** to the health and vitality of ash trees in Kent and the UK as a whole.

2

It is crucial to identify the early warning signs of this disease to take prompt action and mitigate its impact.

3

If left untreated, Ash Dieback can lead to **tree death** and pose a **risk to nearby property** and individuals.



What does a healthy Ash Tree look like?

A healthy Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*) will have a full vibrant crown full of light green pinnate leaves. Little deadwood should be visible, and there should be no dis-colouration or blemishes on the leaves. The tree in on the right in the photo above is a healthy ash tree, the other not so much.

The best time to inspect your trees is when they are in full leaf; it makes it easier to see areas that are dying back, and to assess the branches and leaves



Can you see Crown Dieback?

One of the primary symptoms of Ash Dieback is the progressive dieback of the crown. Initially, the upper branches show signs of withering and decline.

As the disease progresses, more branches become affected, resulting in a sparse foliage appearance. Premature leaf loss and reduced canopy density are also common characteristics.

Crown dieback signifies significant damage to the tree's vascular system, hampering its ability to transport water and nutrients efficiently.

Early stages



"Burnt" looking leaves at the extremities

Areas of deadwood are now clear to see



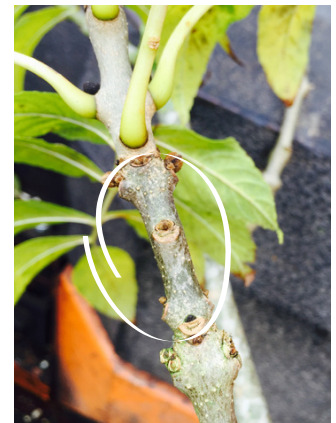
More advanced stages

Do you have Diamond-shaped lesions?

Ash trees afflicted by Ash Dieback often exhibit diamond-shaped lesions on the bark of the trunk and branches. These lesions are caused by the invasion of the fungus and subsequent damage to the tree's tissues. They may appear dark **brown or purple** and are typically accompanied by cracks or splits in the bark. This can be pretty hard to spot as sometimes the lesions are not true diamond shape, that would be too easy!

The presence of these lesions indicates the active infection and further supports the diagnosis of Ash Dieback.

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Epicormic growth



A young urban tree in Ashford with Epicormic growth

Can you see Epicormic growth?

In response to the stress caused by Ash Dieback, ash trees may exhibit epicormic growth. This phenomenon involves the development of new shoots from dormant buds on the main stem or branches. This is the formation of very upward (vertical) growing branches from the inner crown of the tree. The inner crown of the tree looks congested and busy

These shoots often appear weak, distorted, and discoloured. Epicormic growth is the tree's attempt to compensate for the loss of leaf area and impaired nutrient uptake due to the disease.



Have leaves fallen to the ground mid-summer? Do they look like this?

As Ash Dieback progresses, the tree's crown continues to thin, as leaves and branches fall to the ground during mid-summer. Examine the leaves on the ground, are they a little brown (burnt looking)? If you look at this photo you can see a dark discolouration on the section below my thumb - THIS is very typical of ADB and is another confirmation of infection.

You will also see lots of dead smaller branches on the ground near the base of the tree.

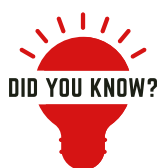
What you need to do if you think you have Ash dieback

Get a free diagnosis from our Ash Dieback experts in Kent

While recognising the signs of Ash Dieback is essential, accurate diagnosis and the development of an effective management plan require the expertise of professional tree care specialists. At About Trees Ltd., we have a team of highly skilled and experienced arborists who can provide comprehensive assessments and accurate diagnoses for your ash trees in Kent and the surrounding counties.

The Process

- **Thorough Inspection:** Our arborists will conduct a detailed inspection of your ash trees, carefully examining the crown, bark, foliage, and overall tree health.
- **Sample Analysis:** In some cases, we may collect samples from the affected trees for discussion with peers or further investigations. This helps us confirm the presence of Ash Dieback and assess the severity of the infection. This is rarely needed as ADB is so easy to spot.
- **Diagnosis and Recommendations:** Based on our findings, we will provide you with a precise diagnosis and personalised recommendations for effective tree care and management. Our team will guide you through the available options, including selective pruning, crown thinning, or even tree removal if necessary.



There are approximately 2.2 million Ash trees in Kent. Once infected, the survival rate of ash trees can vary. Some trees may show resilience and recover, while others may succumb to the disease.

The overall survival rate of infected ash trees is generally considered to be very low.

REMEMBER if you see...

- Wilting or browning leaves
- Crown dieback
- Lesions on the bark (diamonds)
- Epicormic growth (shoots growing from the trunk or branches)

Call the experts!



Next step:

Scan the QR code to book your free in-person assessment.



You can book a quote online for a comprehensive assessment and tailored recommendations. Visit our booking page and schedule an appointment with one of our skilled arborists. Or you can call us on 01227 903802 and speak with someone in the office.

If it's an emergency, speak with Wayne direct on 07814 577734

Remember, when it comes to tree care, making informed decisions and entrusting the well-being of your trees to qualified experts can make all the difference.