

ASH DIEBACK

HYMENOSCYPHUS FRAXINEUS

Ash dieback is a serious fungal disease affecting only Ash trees. Here's how to identify an Ash tree and spot Ash dieback.

IDENTIFYING AN ASH TREE

Some of the key features of an Ash tree are:

Branches & Leaves are opposite not alternate

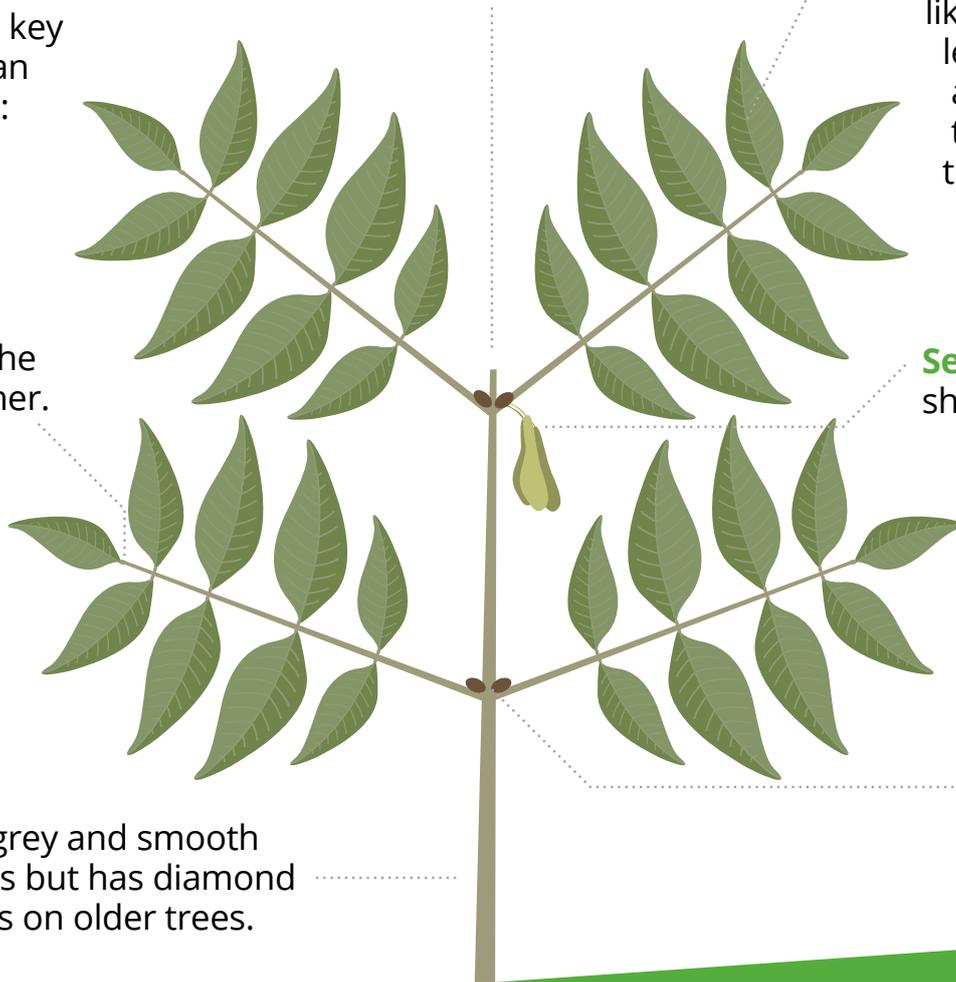
Leaves, sometimes described as feather like, have 5-11 leaflets which are joined together by the rachis

Rachis joins the leaflets together.

Seeds are paddle shaped (if present)

Bark is pale grey and smooth in young trees but has diamond shaped ridges on older trees.

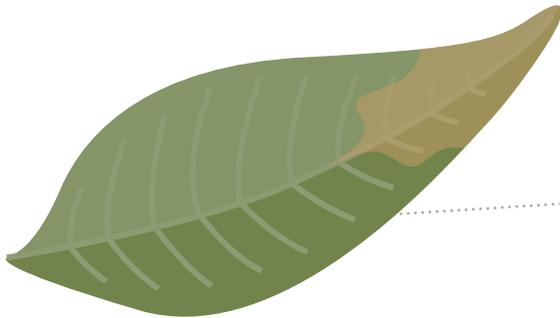
Buds are dark brown / black



More information on Ash dieback is available by emailing ashdieback@gov.gg, by calling **234567**, or by bringing in plant samples to the States Analyst Laboratory from 9-5, Monday – Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

THE SYMPTOMS OF ASH DIEBACK

Here's a quick guide on how to spot the symptoms of Ash die-back.

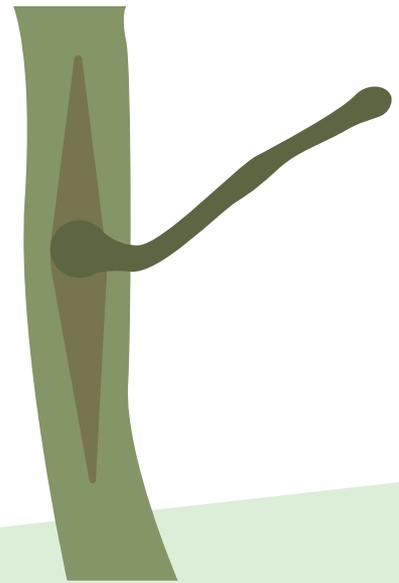


STAGE ONE

Leaf symptoms - brown patches appear on the leaves which then progress towards the rachis and then on towards the stem or branch that the leaf is attached to.

STAGE TWO

The infection then spreads to the branch or trunk forming a purple / brown 'V' or diamond shaped cankers that eventually girdle the stem and causes growth above to wilt and die.



STAGE THREE

The leaves above the infection blacken and die and are often retained on the tree rather than falling. Eventually the branches die and the tree is killed.



Younger trees of less than 10 years are likely to succumb to the disease first (within 2-10 years) but older trees can often survive for longer. Infected trees should be left in place if possible as they provide a valuable habitat for many species.

