

# Financial support



The Forestry Commission in England and Scotland, and Natural Resources Wales, can offer assistance in some circumstances with the costs of removing diseased ash plants from recent planting sites which were aided by planting grants, and replanting with substitute species.

For details, visit:

**England**  
[forestry.gov.uk/england-grants](http://forestry.gov.uk/england-grants)

**Scotland**  
[forestry.gov.uk/chalaragrants](http://forestry.gov.uk/chalaragrants)

**Wales**  
email: [forestregulations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:forestregulations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

or speak to your local Woodland Officer.

For information about Chalara dieback in Northern Ireland visit [www.dardni.gov.uk/forestservice](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/forestservice)

If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example in large print or in another language, please contact:

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Forestry Commission



# Chalara Dieback of Ash

Advice and support for woodland owners and managers



[forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://forestry.gov.uk/chalara)

## Key facts

- Chalara dieback of ash is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea* (*C. fraxinea*).
  - The disease symptoms include leaf wilt and loss, twig and branch dieback, bark lesions and timber staining, and usually lead to tree death;
  - Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), which is widespread in Britain, is particularly susceptible. Other native European ash are also susceptible;
  - Infected, dead leaf stalks are shed during autumn, and after overwintering, produce spores from fruit bodies which form on the dead leaves during the following summer,
- infecting new leaves anytime between June and September;
- The disease becomes obvious in younger trees within months rather than years;
  - Not all infected ash will die - some (1-2%) are likely to have genetic resistance, and we are researching this.

Right: Typical diamond-shaped lesions on stems of older ash and young ash.

Below: Wilting of leaves

Below Right: Stem lesion around leaf scar

Below Left: Lower part of stem lesion, showing damage to tissue under bark



Fruiting bodies on rachis of fallen leaf

## Action

You must report new cases in new areas to us, preferably using our Tree Alert app or on-line reporting form.

You need not take any further action if you own infected trees, unless we, or another plant health authority, serve you with a Statutory Plant Health Notice requiring action.

You should, however, keep an eye on the trees' condition: you might need to prune or fell them if they or their branches threaten to fall and cause injury or damage.

You can also help to slow the spread of the disease from infected areas by:

- Cleaning and disinfecting tools and equipment between woodland visits;

- Where practical, collecting up and burning, burying or composting fallen ash leaves;
- When practical, keeping your vehicles on hard tracks and entering woodland on foot;
- Brushing down clothes and footwear before leaving woodland;
- Cleaning vehicles between woodland visits, especially wheels and wheel arches;
- Ensuring that wood is not contaminated with leaf material before removing it from the growing site;

These precautions are good practice for helping to minimise the spread of ALL plant diseases. See [forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity](https://forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity).

## The rules

Regulations are in place to help slow the spread of Chalara dieback. The main ones include:

- Movements of ash plants and seeds into and within Great Britain are not permitted; whereas
- Movements of ash wood, including firewood, are permitted from infected or suspected infected sites unless these have been restricted by a statutory Plant Health Notice.

A fuller explanation of the regulations is available under 'Managing ash trees' at [forestry.gov.uk/chalara](https://forestry.gov.uk/chalara).

## Symptoms

### Look for:

- 1 Wilting and blackened leaves in summer (see cover picture)
  - 2 Blackened leaf stalks on the ground in summer, with tiny, mushroom-like fruit bodies attached;
  - 3 Darkened bark and sunken cankers on twigs and branches;
  - 4 Distinctive, diamond-shaped lesions extending above and below branch and shoot attachment points. These are especially visible on young planted or naturally regenerated trees a few metres tall.
- Ash can suffer from a number of diseases and conditions which can kill bark and cause cankers, so it is important to recognise the distinctive symptoms of Chalara dieback. The pictures on this page will help, and there are additional pictorial and video guides to the symptoms at [forestry.gov.uk/chalara](https://forestry.gov.uk/chalara).



Stained sapwood cross-section showing internal staining

