

HIGH PEAK TREE ADVICE NOTE

ASH DIEBACK DISEASE - How to Identify an Ash tree

Ash trees are potentially large native trees. They are relatively common and there are a few details that make them easy to identify.

Leaves

One big leaf made up of smaller leaflets



Buds

Ash have distinctive
Large dark leaf buds
visible before the leaflets



Bark

When mature is fissured
when it is
Young it is smoother and
a grey/buff colour



Flowers

In spring you may notice
flowers on ash trees



Seeds/Keys

These hang in Bunches in
late summer Autumn
time.

More info here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/ash/>

HIGH PEAK TREE ADVICE NOTE

ASH DIEBACK DISEASE - What does an infected tree look like



The Crown

Appears thin with gaps and has less leaves than the other trees.

Note :ash are often the last to come in to leaf so an ash with out much leaf cover in April/May may not be a sign of disease



Leaves

Develop patches of brown, die and fall from the tree as the summer progresses



Buds & bark

You may notice dark lesions on the stems – particularly on young trees

Seeds/keys

Infected trees often hang on to their keys longer. These can be seen as brown bunches and are very noticeable in the winter



HIGH PEAK TREE ADVICE NOTE

What do you do if you suspect a tree has Ash Dieback ?

On Council land – In a Parks or open space or by a road

Please report on our website here:

<https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/article/4993/Ash-Dieback>

Or via this email: Ashtrees@highpeak.gov.uk

We will ask you to give details about the location of the tree and if possible photo.

On your land ?

Current advice from the Forestry Commission is that there is nothing that you can do about the disease if you discover it on a tree. If the disease progresses to the later stages, then you will need to prune or fell it if the tree if it is an area where it could be a hazard.

You should not fell a tree just because it has the disease, as some trees may prove to be resistant. Also ash are important for wildlife and many species are dependent on them. Mature trees in particular can live with the disease for many years providing a habitat for these species.

Before you do any work to the tree you must check whether it is a protected tree by a

Tree Preservation Order or whether you are in a Conservation Area on the online interactive planning map :

<https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/hp/council-services/planning-and-buildings/interactive-planning-map>

If the tree is protected you will need to apply to do works to the tree

If you have a lot of trees you may need a Felling License. Link to more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-felling-licence-when-you-need-to-apply>

Replacement planting

Ash make up an estimated 14% of all trees in the High Peak area and it is anticipated that between 50% and 90% of all ash tree will be infected and lost within 10 years. That is a lot of trees. Therefore planting more trees is important. Tree planting advice and the benefits of trees are covered in other Tree Advice Notes.

The woodland trust supplies trees to community groups

<https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

Other sources of information

- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/tree-pests-and-diseases/key-tree-pests-and-diseases/ash-dieback/>
- <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=779>
- <https://www.observatree.org.uk/portal/ash-dieback/>