



Identification & Management of Ash Dieback

Hymenoscyphus fraxineus



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Ash Dieback at the advanced and terminal stage becomes unsafe to climb with ropes in the conventional way. This only leaves the option to fell the entire tree from the ground or if not practical a MEWP (Cherry Picker) or Roto Telehandler with Grapple saw would be necessary to safely dismantle the tree.

NPC Tree Surgery has over 20 years of experience in dealing with some of the most technically challenging jobs in the Arboricultural industry. The extensive range of equipment at the company's disposal means a safe way can always be found to complete any job.

Please get in touch for a quotation for help dealing with Ash Dieback:

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Ash Dieback is now widely affecting trees across Kent and the South-East of England. The mortality rate is expected to be in the region of 95%.

The easiest way to visually judge the effect of Ash Dieback is by the change in crown vitality. Early identification allows tree owners time to evaluate the risk, safely plan and budget for the appropriate tree management.



Initial

What to look for:

- Full crown of leaves only the very tips starting to Dieback.
- More small dead wood than usual.

What to do:

- Monitor for further deterioration.
- Possibility of recovery from this stage.



Advanced

What to look for:

- Sparse crown, large dead branches.
- Increase in dead wood and snapped branches.

What to do:

- Remove if tree branches are within range of any people, paths, roads, infrastructure etc.
- Leave for wildlife habitat if safe to do so.



Terminal

What to look for:

- Almost no leaves left on the tree, major branch failure highly likely leading eventually to whole tree collapse.

What to do:

- Remove if tree branches are within range of any people, paths, roads, infrastructure etc.
- Leave for wildlife habitat if safe to do so.

What is Ash Dieback?

Ash Dieback is caused by a chronic fungal disease characterised by leaf loss and crown Dieback. The spores of the fungus can travel in the wind from tree to tree. It kills trees by blocking the water transportation system within the tree, also making them very brittle. Young saplings can be killed in a single season, mature trees can take 2 -3 seasons before they succumb to the disease.

Dangerous trees and the law:

The safety of trees is nearly always the responsibility of the owner of the land on which they grow. The Owner or Manager has a common law duty of care to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which they can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure their neighbour.

The best time to identify the changes in crown vitality are from May to September



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