

# EMERGING PEST AND DISEASE THREATS: ASH DIEBACK (*HYMENOSCYPHUS FRAXINEUS*) ON ASH TREES (*Fraxinus spp.*)

Ash Dieback is responsible for causing severe dieback on ash species across Europe (including *Fraxinus excelsior* and *F. angustifolia*). It is caused by an the invasive fungal pathogen *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which blocks the water transport systems in trees, causing crown dieback, lesions and the eventual death of the tree. The disease was first detected in Poland and has subsequently spread to most European countries.

## *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* symptoms on ash trees:



Extensive dieback in stems caused by *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*



Leaf blotches showing infection. Blotches are often at the leaf base and midrib



Ash Dieback causes diamond shaped lesions on the stems/trunks of infected trees.



Canopy thinning and crown dieback in mature ash trees in Denmark



Healthy leaves (on the left) and infected leaves (on the right)



From July to October, small white fruiting bodies can be found on leaf stalks

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED SIGHTINGS TO \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_