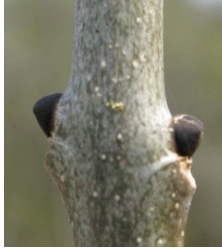


ASH (*Fraxinus excelsior*)



Ash is readily identifiable in winter by its hard black buds, on the tip and in opposite pairs. Leaves do not appear until May

and fall early, in October. Flowers appear before the leaves, in April, in loose clusters near the tips of twigs. They are green in colour, small and inconspicuous and may be hermaphrodite or unisexual. Pollination is by wind^[1].



The female and hermaphrodite flowers each produce a single seed with a long wing attached at one end. These seeds, known as “keys”, persist on the tree in clusters after leaf fall, being brought to the ground by winter gales^[1].



Unfortunately ash is affected by *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, formerly called *Chalara fraxinea*, causing dieback of foliage and twigs and in many cases death of the tree.

In Sandhurst Copse I have deliberately planted new ash, transplanted self sown seedlings from within the wood, to increase the chance of having one or more that might exhibit resistance. A distinctive feature is lesions on the stem. Dieback of the stem may result in vigorous growth of buds below the affected area; but this gives false hope as almost certainly there will be further dieback.



[1]“British Woodland Trees”, H L Edlin, 1949, p12.