



**MEDIA INFORMATION // PRESS  
OFFICE**

**Oak Park, Carlow, Co. Carlow,  
Ireland**  
Príomh-Oifig, Páirc na Darach, Ceatharlach

**tel: + 353 59 917 0200 fax: + 353  
59 918 2097**

**[www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)**

**For Publication, Tuesday, 25 June, 2013**

## **800 People Attend Chalara Meetings**

Over 800 concerned people attended one of a nationwide series of information meetings to learn more about Chalara fraxinea, or ash dieback as it is commonly known, a very serious threat to ash trees – one of our most important native trees. The meetings were attended by forest owners, farmers, landowners as well as representatives from other agencies.

These public information meetings were organised by Teagasc and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Dr. Nuala Ni Fhlatharta, Head of Teagasc's Forestry Development Department commented: "With 82 confirmed findings in Ireland, the information meetings provided an important and timely opportunity to raise awareness of this serious ash disease. The meetings provided the most up to date information on Ireland's campaign to eradicate the disease. People found the Question and Answer sessions very useful as they offered an ideal forum to get answers about ash dieback."

Steven Meyen, Teagasc Forestry Adviser based in County Donegal said: "It was very encouraging to see the large number of people who are concerned about this disease threat to one of our native tree species. They now know what to look out for. Anyone who planted ash trees over the last couple of years should give their ash trees a quick health check over the next few weeks and months."

He explained: "At this time of year, watch out for wilting ash leaves that remain attached to the tree. Other symptoms include shoot dieback and diamond shaped stem lesions. If you see something you suspect is ash dieback, please call 01-607 2651 or email [forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie). Do not take samples as it could assist in spreading this serious disease. Please remain vigilant, helping us stop the disease from spreading."

Visit [www.teagasc.ie/forestry](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry) for further details of this serious threat to one of our most important native trees.

Ends

<b>Issued on behalf of Teagasc by:</b>	<b>Eric Donald, Head of Public Relations</b>	<b>Date: 25 June, 2013</b>
	<b>Tel: 059 9183408, 086 8381112</b>	
	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:eric.donald@teagasc.ie">eric.donald@teagasc.ie</a></b>	

### **Notes to Editor:**

Ash dieback is a relatively new, serious disease of ash trees caused by the fungal pathogen *Chalara fraxinea* (*Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*). It has spread rapidly across much of Europe. The disease can affect ash trees of any age and in any setting. The disease can be fatal, particularly among younger trees.

Many details associated with the biology of *Chalara fraxinea* still remain unclear. However, it is likely that plants for planting and wood are pathways for spread over long distances and the disease may be introduced into Ireland through the imports of ash plants and wood, including firewood, from continental European countries.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has confirmed 82 findings of this disease in Ireland as of 17 May 2013. The Department is carrying out and supporting a number of measures including legislative changes, surveillance, eradication, information campaigns, research and the development of an all-Ireland strategy.

When visiting a forest, do not remove any plant material from the site and clean clothes and footwear of any plant material, including leaves, before leaving the forest.