

**Supporting research to developing disease tolerance in our ash trees**

Tree Improvement and Breeding Programme at Teagasc



A Chara,

I am writing to bring to your attention an important initiative aimed addressing the severe impacts of ash dieback disease on our precious native ash trees, particularly here in Ireland.

As you may be aware, my colleague Dr. Dheeraj Rathore, through his commendable efforts, is currently undertaking pioneering research in breeding ash to combat the ash dieback disease. This disease, caused by the invasive fungal pathogen *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, poses a very significant threat to our ash population, endangering not only the ecological balance but also the cultural and economic value associated with these majestic trees.

In response to this pressing challenge, Teagasc's Tree Improvement Programme has been actively collaborating with both national and international partners to develop resilient ash genotypes with a high level of tolerance to ash dieback disease. Through rigorous breeding and screening programs, Teagasc aims to help safeguard the future of ash trees in Ireland and beyond.

In light of these efforts, I am reaching out to you to kindly request your contribution to this vital cause. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in providing access to Teagasc staff to take cuttings from your ash trees for inclusion in our breeding and screening programme. Your participation in this endeavour would not only contribute to the national conservation of ash trees but can also help in efforts towards the preservation of our natural heritage for generations to come.

Your generosity and support in this matter would be immensely valuable, and I am confident that with your support, we can make significant strides in mitigating the impact of ash dieback disease for the benefit of both the public and the agriculture/forestry sectors.

Further information on Teagasc research into ash dieback is available on the forestry section of the Teagasc website at:

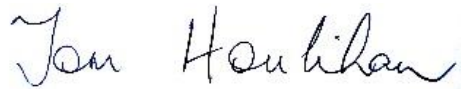
<https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/forestry/research/ash-resistance-to-ash-dieback/>

Please feel free to contact me at **087-6184353** or [tom.houlihan@teagasc.ie](mailto:tom.houlihan@teagasc.ie), if you require any further information or clarification regarding this request.

Sincere thanks for your support on this matter, and I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Tom Houlihan,



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Acting Head of Forestry Development Department,  
Teagasc

**Please provide the below information if you agree to include your ash trees in the Teagasc ash breeding program.**

**Consent to use plant material in the Teagasc Ash breeding programme that aims to develop an Ash dieback disease resistant seed orchard:**      Yes                      No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_