



Boxwood Blight Prevention Measures

On June 25, 2016 PDA imposed an Order of Quarantine on Boxwood Blight. The order allows for the quarantine on any property, facility, premises, place or area where Boxwood Blight is confirmed. Implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent the spread of the disease into and around Pennsylvania is imperative to keep boxwood a viable landscape plant.

For All Workers in the Green Industry

Spores of the fungus can be spread by insects, animals and horticultural tools. Spores can be carried on clothing and hands. Blight can be wind disseminated and also spread through splashing from rain and irrigation and transmitted through diseased plant debris. Spores from diseased material may be in the soil on leaf debris and may be viable for 10 or more years. Be sure to follow good sanitation measures such as:

- Work Clean to Dirty
- Clean tools between jobs
- Clean equipment regularly
- A 10% bleach solution or other appropriate sanitizing solution should be applied to tools and equipment between pruning boxwood and after completing all pruning and cleaning.

Additional Steps for Retailers and Landscapers

- Question your Out-of-State vendors – All shipments of Buxus (sp.) shipped into the Commonwealth must be accompanied by a state Phytosanitary Certificate or Shipping Certificate which states: **“The plants were grown, produced, and shipped to meet conditions specified and are not known to have Boxwood Blight, Calonectria pseudonaviculatum.”**
- Don't comingle boxwood stock together
- Isolate new material for observation
- Incorporate breaks between varieties and vendors
- Place other plant stock between varieties

Additional Steps for Growers and Rewholesalers

Participate in PDA's voluntary "Boxwood Clean Program". This program recommends best management practices to limit the possibility of introduction and spread of the disease for growers, wholesalers and retailers. Contact your local PDA regional office to participate.

Additional resources for Best Management Practices

VA Tech - <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/boxwood-blight/>

CT Experimental Station- <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=3756&q=500388&caesNav=%7c>

AmericanHort -

<http://americanhort.theknowledgecenter.com/Library/Americanhort/docs/government%20relations/Boxwood%20blight/BBWG-BMPs-Version1.pdf>

SOURCES:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture www.agriculture.pa.gov

The Pennsylvania Bulletin, Order of Quarantine, Boxwood Blight