

# Nursery Industry Voluntary Best Management Practices

For *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* (Boxwood Blight)

To prevent the introduction of the disease and  
what to do if it is detected in nursery operations

Version 1.0

Endorsements:

American Nursery & Landscape Association  
Boxwood Blight Working Group  
Horticultural Research Institute  
National Plant Board



Suggested Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Boxwood Blight

Version 1.0 – Visit [www.boxwoodblight.org](http://www.boxwoodblight.org) for updates to BMPs. Updates to the recommendations will be made as more information regarding the disease and its management comes to light.

The following voluntary industry recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs) were designed to provide guidelines to help growers in managing the risk of Boxwood Blight (*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) introductions and how to respond if the disease is confirmed on the nursery grounds. These suggestions are based largely on BMPs promoted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and have received the support of the industry led Boxwood Blight Working Group (BBWG), coordinated by the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) and the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI). These recommendations are strictly voluntary and are intended to provide guidance that is practical in terms of cost and benefit, relevant to multiple types of production and take into consideration the diversity of nursery sizes, their regional climatic conditions, and their production systems. All statements regarding plant material pertain only to *Buxus* and *Sarcococca* species and are not to be interpreted more broadly.

Individual nurseries are encouraged to review the recommended practices and apply some or all of them, depending on their specific circumstances. Actionable BMPs are associated with a set of check boxes that can be used to denote if a nursery that has not had a confirmed detection of Boxwood Blight will employ the BMP (Pathogen Free), a nursery that did have a confirmed detection will employ the BMP (Pathogen Present), or if the BMP will not be employed (N/A).

Pathogen Free  
Pathogen Present  
N/A

A) Training, Disease Diagnosis, and Record Keeping

- a. Educate personnel to recognize the disease symptoms and know what to do if symptoms are observed.
  - i. See [www.boxwoodblight.org](http://www.boxwoodblight.org) for pest alerts containing images and descriptions.
  - ii. If a diseased plant is suspected contact your local/regional National Plant Diagnostic Network laboratory ([www.npdn.org](http://www.npdn.org)) or your State Department of Agriculture ([www.nasda.org](http://www.nasda.org)) to submit a sample for confirmation.

- 1. If the presence of disease is confirmed or strongly suspected take the appropriate eradication steps described in Pathogen Eradication (Section E of this document).

- b. Accurate and detailed records for the following activities should be maintained for traceability.

- i. Plants moving on and off site.
- ii. Shipping – quantities and destinations.
- iii. Plant propagation.
- iv. Fungicide treatments.
- v. Names of brokers and/or growers from which material was acquired.



ii. Water plants in the morning hours unless weather conditions require additional watering.

  

iii. Direct runoff water from compost and cull piles away from production areas.

  

iv. Prevent the accumulation of pooling water in growing blocks.

  

v. Space plants to allow for air circulation.

D) Returned Plants

  

a. Avoid accepting returns on-site. However, if returns are accepted, treat material as new buy-ins (see B. b. i-iv).

  

b. No dead material should be accepted and disposed of on-site.

  

c. Do not compost returned material.

E) Pathogen Eradication – If a Boxwood Blight detection has been confirmed from the nursery.

  

a. All infected plants and plant debris should be buried a minimum of 2ft. below surface, or preferably, burned.

  

i. Be cautious when moving diseased material around.

  

1. Cover or bag diseased plants.

  

2. Do not move during rain events.

  

3. Bury or disinfect pots but do not reuse in Boxwood production.

  

4. Do not compost infected plant material.

  

5. Clothing, equipment, and vehicles used during the disposal of diseased plants should be destroyed or sanitized before re-entering production areas.

  

b. Confirm that the sanitation practices described in Section C are followed.

  

c. Dealing with presumed healthy plants from a site where Boxwood Blight was confirmed.

  

1. Temporarily suspend Boxwood sales until a delimitation survey is completed.

  

2. Do not apply fungicides to Boxwood and Sarcococca plants within a 3 meter radius of infected plants.

  

3. Evaluate all Boxwoods on property on a regular basis.

  

4. Break up large contiguous blocks with 3 meters of non-Buxaceae plants or open space.

  

5. Once an area is deemed free from the pathogen, place non-hosts in the previously infested area.