



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING
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Boxwood Blight Cleanliness “Best Management Practices” (BMP’S) guidelines:

A. EXCLUSION OF THE PATHOGEN

1. Utilize suppliers or nurseries that have been officially inspected by the State Department of Agriculture and found to be apparently free from boxwood blight or hold a “Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program Compliance Agreement”/ “Boxwood Blight Compliance Agreement for Production Nurseries”.
2. Inspect incoming host plants and/or cuttings at the time of delivery. If the host material is symptomatic, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture immediately.
3. Newly received host plants or rooted cuttings shall be isolated by a minimum of 3 meters (approximately 10 feet), by a physical barrier, or by another isolation method approved by the New Jersey department of Agriculture from existing host plants in the nursery for at least 30 days.
 - a. Keep newly received host plants obtained from different vendors separated.
 - b. The isolation area will have a surface, such as concrete or landscape fabric, that can be cleaned of plant debris. All plant debris shall be removed on a weekly basis.
 - c. No fungicides active against *Cylindrocladium* sp. shall be applied during the isolation/holding period.
 - d. The isolation area for incoming host plants must be positioned to prevent water run-off into potting media and other host production areas.
4. Returns of host plants shall only be accepted into the isolation area and treated as newly received host plants (see 3 above). Do not allow returns that have been comingled with host plants from another source into the nursery.
5. Unload incoming vehicles delivering host plant material into the isolation area, or if a common loading dock must be used, clean up and proper disposal shall occur after unloading (see C1). Vehicles for pick-up must be free from host plants and debris before entering the host plant production area.

B. WATER MANAGEMENT

1. Conduct watering so as to allow leaves of host plants to dry before nightfall.
2. Monitor for host plant debris in water run-off. Minimize water run-off such that it does not run from one host plant production area into another.
3. Minimize standing water in host plant blocks.

C. SANITATION

1. Host plant production areas shall be inspected regularly for the accumulation of host plant debris. Minimize host plant debris by regular cleaning of the substrate and pot surfaces. Host plants or host plant debris shall not be used in compost.
2. Sanitize tools and equipment between blocks/lots of host plant material with an effective

disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

3. After every crop production cycle, remove all crop debris and disinfect propagation mist beds, cutting benches, machines, and tools, using an appropriately labeled disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

4. Use new, sanitized or pots/flats that have been thoroughly cleaned of soil and plant debris for host plant production. Do not reuse potting mix previously used in host plant production unless the used potting media has been sterilized.

D. INSPECTION

1. Inspect all host plants in the isolation area on a weekly basis and other host plants monthly throughout the growing season by trained personnel.

a. If boxwood blight symptoms are detected they shall be reported immediately to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to have the disease identified.

b. No symptomatic host plants shall be sold until it has been examined and cleared by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture

More information may be found at these websites:

<http://americanhort.theknowledgecenter.com/OnDemand/index.cfm?view=category&colid=142&cid=324>

<http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/boxwood-blight-confirmed-in-new-jersey/>

Any certified nursery may request participation the New Jersey's Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program. The participation in this program will provide documentation which exceeds the annual nursery certification. This is the option for those requiring a statement referring to non-presence of boxwood blight your boxwood plants. You may agree to participate in this compliance agreement at any time which is practical. Following the protocol outlined within the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program Compliance Agreement constitutes the practicality of the agreement timing.

A \$50.00 fee will be assessed for each inspection/audit completed under the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program Compliance Agreement. Inspections/audits will occur, approximately, at 3 month intervals.

Please call our office with any questions, at (609) 406-6939.

Regards,



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