

Box Tree Moth Quarantine Order for Cape May County
New Jersey State Board of Agriculture

WHEREAS, Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) is an invasive insect pest native to East Asia, as its larvae are voracious feeders that can completely defoliate and kill Boxwood (*Buxus* species) plants; and

WHEREAS, the aggressive, destructive nature of the Box Tree Moth's caterpillar life stage makes it essential to quickly take action as soon as damage is detected as defoliation can occur within 10 days; and

WHEREAS, the risk of human movement of infested nursery stock, plant material, and debris will rapidly expand the pest's range; and

WHEREAS, the nursery and landscape industries that rely on Boxwood plants generate more than \$9.8 million in economic activity annually within New Jersey and an estimated \$140 million annually throughout the United States, according to data provided by the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") National Agricultural Statistics Service; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture ("Department") has determined the Box Tree Moth to be an injurious insect that is dangerous and destructive to the horticultural and agricultural industries, residential landscapes, and heritage plantings of Boxwood plants throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2026, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) confirmed that Box Tree Moth was detected on residential plantings in Middle Township, Cape May County, New Jersey, and this is the first confirmed detection of this pest in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, USDA-APHIS has previously detected Box Tree Moth in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan, and every one of these states established intrastate quarantines that restrict the movement of host plants, plant parts, and any articles capable of harboring life stages of the Box Tree Moth.

NJDA AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. § 4:1-21.5, the Department may institute and enforce such measures as it may deem necessary to control infectious or contagious diseases of live stock and poultry, diseases of plants, injurious insects and other plant pests; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. § 4:1-21.5 and N.J.S.A. § 4:7-1, the State Board of Agriculture may establish and enforce general or local quarantines.

I. THEREFORE, the following terms as used in this Order shall mean:

"Box Tree Moth" means the insect known as Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) in any stage of development.

"Businesses" means commercial enterprises including but not limited to, Nurseries, Persons, Plant dealers and landscaping companies.

"Certificate" means any document which is issued for regulated article by an inspector or by a person operating under a compliance agreement, and which represents that such article is eligible for movement outside the quarantine area designated in this Order.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

"Exposed" means determination by an inspector to be at risk for spreading Box Tree Moth.

"Infestation" means the presence of Box Tree Moth in any life stage.

"Inspector" means any person officially designated by the Department, or an employee of USDA-APHIS, authorized by NJDA to enforce the provisions of this subchapter.

"Move" means to ship, carry, transport, offer for shipment, receive for shipment, or allow to be transported by any means.

"Movement" means the act of shipping, carrying, transporting, offering for shipment, receiving for shipment, or allowing to be transported by any means.

"Notification by the Department" means an official written order issued by the Secretary of Agriculture specifying conditions found, actions the recipient shall carry out, and a specified time frame by which the order must be complied with.

"Nursery" means any premises, including greenhouses but excluding any orchard, at which plants are grown or maintained for propagation or replanting.

"Person" means an individual, firm, corporation, company, limited liability company, society, association, or other business.

"Plant" means any part of a plant, tree, aquatic plant, plant product, shrub, vine fruit, rhizome, sod, vegetable, seed, bulb, stolon, tuber, corm, pip, cutting, scion, bud, graft or fruit.

"Quarantined area" means any area designated as a quarantined area in accordance with this Order.

"Regulated article" means any article including live plants, debris, or dead material listed in this Order.

"USDA-APHIS" means the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

II. THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following requirements and restrictions concerning the movement of Boxwood plants, debris, and other regulated articles shall take effect:

A. Restrictions on movement of plant material; Disposal

1. No person may move any regulated articles listed in this Order outside the quarantine area designated in this Order (Cape May County) without prior written authorization by the Department.
2. Infested or dead Regulated articles must be disposed of within the designated quarantined area (Cape May County).

B. Regulated articles

1. Regulated articles are as follows:
 - a. Boxwood plants (*Buxus* species).
 - b. Debris, dead material, or any other item or means of conveyance, when it is determined by a Department inspector that the regulated article presents a risk of spreading Box Tree Moths.

C. Quarantine area

1. By order of the State Board of Agriculture pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:1-21.5 and N.J.S.A. 4:7, in order to control the spread of Box Tree Moth the following Counties are hereby quarantined:
 - a. Cape May County
2. Upon detection of Box Tree Moth in any area outside of Cape May County, the Secretary of Agriculture may temporarily designate any non-quarantined area in New Jersey as a quarantined area.

D. Right of access

1. Duly authorized representatives of the Department may enter upon any lands or premises, public or private, within the State including areas outside of the quarantined area for the purpose of making necessary inspections for Box Tree Moth and the removal of infested Boxwood plants.
2. Persons interfering with or obstructing the Department or an inspector in the conduct of inspections or treatments for Box Tree Moth shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:7-13, -14 and -18.

E. Notification of infestation, treatment order

1. A written Notice of Infestation-Treatment Order will be issued to the affected person by the Secretary of Agriculture, following positive confirmation of Box Tree Moth by the Department.
2. The recipient shall treat all plant material specified in the Infestation-Treatment Order to eradicate Box Tree Moth in a manner approved by the Department, including the destruction of infected plants.
3. The recipient must comply with the Infestation-Treatment Order within the time specified therein. The Order shall specify a date for compliance that is not less than three days from the date that the Order is issued.

F. Conditions of movement, certification

1. No regulated articles may be moved out of the designated quarantine area of Cape May County without a signed compliance agreement with NJDA concerning the intrastate and interstate movement of boxwood plants or debris to nonregulated areas.
2. A person whose stock has been inspected to the satisfaction of the Department and found free from Box Tree Moth, wishing to move regulated plants shall be provided with written authorization issued by the Department.
3. Businesses moving regulated articles out of the quarantine area are required to sign a compliance agreement providing conditions required for the interstate/intrastate movement of Boxwood plants from areas regulated for Box Tree Moth to non-regulated areas.