

Boxwood Blight 2016



History



- First Found in US
2011 in CT and NC
- First Found in PA
2012 Lancaster
County

Boxwood Blight in PA



Trace Forward/Inspections

- 2012 – 2 locations with positives
- 2013 – 12 Locations with positives
- 2014 – 62 samples submitted
 - 9 Positive
- 2015 – 150+ locations
 - July – 69 samples
 - 20 Positive
 - October – 32 samples
 - 10 Positive

Boxwood Blight in PA

Sources



PENNSYLVANIA

- No PA Producer has been found with positive for Boxwood Blight
- All positives traced to incoming material from out of state producers/suppliers

What Do We Know?

The Disease

- Plant Diseases are difficult to regulate
- Systems approach programs helpful
- Due to preventative applications disease presents 4-6 weeks after being received

Gardens

- Boxwood are considered a foundation plant for landscapes
- Historic established gardens have boxwood.
- Public Gardens large gardens featuring boxwood.

PA Response



Quarantine

- ALL producers/suppliers found positive must implement systems approach to mitigate disease
- Destruction of positive material
- Positive find at one chain location, all stores subject to “Stop Sale”

PA Response

1st Positive

- Implement systems approach to mitigate disease
- Only purchase plants certified by a state
- Purchased plants must be in isolation for 30 days with no fungicides
- Sanitation of vehicles
- No comingling
- Pre-notification to PDA 1 year for material shipped

2nd Positive

- Stop-Sale on all *Buxus* (sp.) at the location
- Sample of not less than 2% or minimum 10 plants
- Held by variety/blocks until disease can present with no fungicides
- Destroy positives associated with block samples
- Pre-notification to PDA 2 years



PA Response

3rd Positive

- Producer/Supplier not allowed to ship *Buxus (sp)* to Pennsylvania locations

Wholesales/Retailers or Non-Producers

- Sanitize areas where boxwood was located
- Implement Clean Boxwood Non – Producers Program
- Pre-notification to PDA of incoming *Buxus (sp)*



PA Response



Quarantine

- Different from other Quarantines
 - Equal for PA Suppliers/Producers and Out of State Suppliers/Producers
 - Preventative
 - Utilizes Systems Approach
- PDA Staff will:
 - Plant Inspectors work with companies on Boxwood Clean Program
 - Implement systems approach to disease control
 - Verify systems approach working

PA Response



Working with DEP

- Disposal Plan
 - Landfill Operators
 - Will be handled as a “Special Waste”
 - Haulers
 - Confirmation of Destruction
 - Township Compost Piles
 - Notification by DEP
 - Burning
 - PDA/DEP Burn Permit

Next Steps

- Contact Green Industry
 - Growers
 - Retailers
 - PLNA
 - AmericanHort

National Plant Board
USDA APHIS PPQ



Helping Industry



Share the Message

- Ask suppliers questions
- Isolate incoming boxwood
- Don't comingle stock
- Practice best management practices for locations
- Sanitation is important to prevent the spread

Workers in Green Industry



Sanitation

- Work Clean to Dirty
- Clean tools between jobs
- Clean equipment regularly
- Spores are very sticky and cling to clothes, tools, and animals

Retailers and Landscapers



Best Management Practices

- Don't comingle boxwood stock together
 - Isolate new material for observation
 - Incorporate breaks between varieties and vendors (other plant stock can be placed in between)
- Know your vendors
- Special buys may not be so "Special"

Boxwood Clean Program



Sanitation

- For storage or sales yards use materials which can be easily swept and sanitized such as cloth or concrete
- 10% Bleach solution on tools, equipment
- Limit the movement of people freely going through the nursery
- Systems Approach for disease control

Homeowners



- Use reputable sources
- Ask questions of garden centers and landscapers
- Contact Extension Master Gardeners
- Don't compost or replant

Arboretums/Public Gardens



- Could lose whole collections
- Could not replant
- Some impose restrictions

Everyone Should Know

A lab needs to confirm disease. It looks like others.

If found, a Stop Sale will be issued. Infected material must be destroyed.

Area must be sanitized.

Clean Program utilizing best management practices will be required when a positive is found in production and/or retail.

Share the message

- Please **Do Not**
 - Compost
 - PSU currently studying requirements for safe composting
 - Replant with boxwood
 - Spores can live in the soil for 10+ years
 - Move from suspect material to clean area
 - Could be costly to landscape customers and to the company

Inspector's Role

- Boxwood Clean Program
 - Available in PA
 - Voluntary Program to Implement Best Management Practices
 - No fees to become a participant
 - Contact your regional office
 - Available in other States
 - Ask your suppliers



Questions



Longwood Gardens