

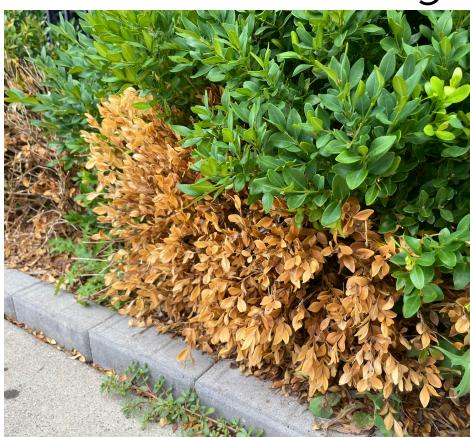


WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY BOXWOOD? COMMON ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

By: Melanie Fuhrmann and Caitlin Splawski

Winter Damage

Environmental Damage



- Browning of foliage
- Spring leaf drop
- Caused by cold, wind, sun, salt
- Severe or repeated damage can kill plants

Management Tips

- Plant hardy cultivars
- Avoid late-summer pruning
- Use burlap screens or windbreaks for protection



Photos: Caitlin Splawski, MSU Extension

Box Tree Moth

Invasive Caterpillar



- Chewed leaves & webbing
- Defoliated - Skeletonized branches
- Quick onset of damage
- Can lead to plant death
- Green caterpillars with black stripes, white spots & a shiny black head

Management Tips

- Hand-pick larvae for small infestations
- Keep plants healthy with proper pruning & watering
- Double bag dead plants and clippings for disposal in trash
- Visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/box-tree-moth> for other treatment options

Read More:



Photos: Hannah Nadel, USDA & Mafalda Weldon, USDA

Boxwood Leafminer

Native Fly Larva



- Blistered, yellowed leaves
- Yellow-orange discoloration
- Clicking sound when shaken
- Cosmetic damage, may weaken plants over time

Management Tips

- Prune after adult fly season (late Spring)
- Plant resistant cultivars
- Chemical control can be difficult



Photos: Rebecca Finneran, MSU Extension & Sarah Hughson, MSU Extension

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Boxwood Blight

Fungal Disease



- Brown leaf spots
- Rapid leaf drop and bare branches
- Black lesions on stems
- Highly infectious
- Can kill entire plants quickly

Management Tips

- Use resistant cultivars
- Remove infected plants & debris, double bag and dispose in trash
- Sanitize tools and equipment



Read More:



Photos: Sharon M. Douglas, University of Connecticut,
Peter W. Trenchard, University of Connecticut

Boxwood Psyllid

Sap-Sucking Insect



- Cupped or puckered new leaves
- White waxy/cottony filament
- Distorts growth but damage is cosmetic

Management Tips

- Prune out damaged tips in early summer
- Chemical treatment is not recommended, but horticultural oil or insecticidal soap can be applied early spring

Read More:



Photo: Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org
& Sarah Hughson, MSU Extension

Boxwood Mites

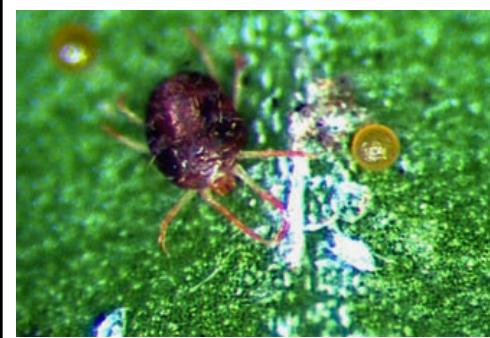
Tiny Spider Mite



- Leaf stippled (tiny pale white or yellow dots)
- Dull or bronzed leaf appearance
- Heavy infestations will weaken plants over time

Management Tips

- Monitor for stippling and discoloration
- Plan to treat spring into early summer
- Horticultural oil or insecticidal soap are effective treatment options



Photos: David L. Clement, University of Maryland, Rayanne Lehman, Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

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