



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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*Putting Science to Work for Society
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*

Founded 1875

February 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: National Plant Board Member States and the Nursery Industry

FROM: Louis A. Magnarelli, Director *LM*
Kirby C. Stafford III, Vice Director, State Entomologist *KCS*

SUBJECT: Status of Boxwood Blight in Connecticut

The purpose of this notice is to provide states and the nursery industry with an update on the status of boxwood blight, caused by the fungus *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*, in Connecticut. This pathogen was first detected in this state in October 2011, and has now been detected on boxwood, *Buxus* species, in residential plantings, nurseries, garden centers, and nurseries. At this time, boxwood blight has also been detected in eight other states as well as in British Columbia, Canada.

Regulatory actions concerning this disease in Connecticut are under the statutory authority of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Stop-sale notices have been issued to the affected nurseries and other businesses in the state to prevent the sale and movement of infected plants. While CAES has not ordered the destruction of infested plants, affected green industry businesses and other entities began voluntary destruction of symptomatic plant material by burial on the quarantined property or transport to an incinerator with the approval and oversight of state plant inspectors. Sanitation of facilities has been completed or is ongoing. We continue to inspect and sample remaining quarantined stock. We have requested that nurseries stop fungicide applications to asymptomatic plants, so that any latent infections can be expressed. Some boxwood-blight positive plants continue to be detected at the original nurseries and an active stop-sale prohibits the sale or movement of any affected material from those sites.

Significant efforts are ongoing to determine the amount of boxwood blight in the state, and *C. pseudonaviculatum* has not been detected at many surveyed Connecticut nurseries and garden centers.

Best management practices (BMPs) have been developed for nurseries to eliminate infected and associated plants within the same block, handle asymptomatic plants for possible eventual release, and isolate new material brought into any nursery, garden center, or similar entity for the production of clean plants. There are no restrictions on the importation of boxwood into Connecticut, which only require the customary phytosanitary certificate of inspection under state clean plant regulations. Copies of CT BMPs are available on the CAES website (www.ct.gov/caes/). These BMPs are subject to revision based on new knowledge.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kirby Stafford at (203) 974-8485, Deputy State Entomologist Dr. Victoria Smith at (203) 974-8474, Chief Plant Pathologist Dr. Sharon Douglas at (203) 974-8496, or Station Director, Dr. Louis Magnarelli at (203) 974-8440. Thank you.

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