

Boxwood Blight

Boxwood blight is a fungal disease (*Calonectria pseudonaviculata*) that affects all top growth of the plants that it has infected. While some boxwood appears to be more susceptible than others, all species can be affected by this pathogen, along with Pachysandra (Japanese Spurge) and Sarcococca (Sweetbox). There is no cure for boxwood blight. This disease can persist in the soil for 5 or more years. Replant with alternative shrubs that are not affected by this disease.

Signs & Symptoms

- Dark brown/black leaf spots
- Black streaks on the green stems
- Clusters of white spores visible to the naked eye appear during humid conditions

Management

- Space plants to add better air movement
- Use drip irrigation instead of overhead irrigation
- Do not shear or prune the boxwood while wet
- Collect and remove all debris after pruning, do not compost



Photos N. Gregory, University of Delaware; M. Williamson, Clemson Plant Problem Clinic; N.W. Gauthier, UK