

Boxwood Leafminer

Boxwood leaf miner is one of the most damaging pests to boxwood. All varieties are susceptible to boxwood leaf miners.

Signs & Symptoms

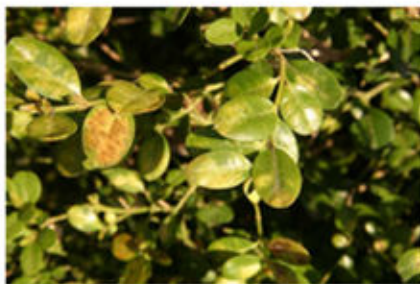
- Larvae feed between the upper and lower parts, leaving blisters on the undersides of the leaf.
- Leaves will become smaller and yellow in appearance.
- The leaves will eventually fall off.

Life Cycle

- Boxwood leaf miners over-winter as partially-grown larvae in the leaf blisters.
- The eggs will hatch in the spring and the larvae will become active, rapidly feeding between the leaves.
- In May, the adult leaf miner flies will swarm around the boxwoods – about the time Weigelas bloom.
- The adult boxwood leaf miner is a yellow-to-orange-red fly that looks very similar to a mosquito.
- The adults will mate as the new boxwood growth appears in the spring and insert their eggs between the leaf sides.
- The eggs will hatch in about 14-21 days and the larvae will feed the rest of the summer.

Management

- If possible, prune the foliage before the adults emerge or right after adult flies lay their eggs in May.
- Apply pesticides around May 1st or when Weigela bloom. Reapply between mid-June and mid-July.
- A systemic insecticide may be necessary in the event of extreme infestations.



Photos Missouri Botanical Garden