

Boxwood Psyllid

Cupped boxwood leaves are a sign of the boxwood psyllid (*Psylla buxi*). Boxwood psyllid is the most common pest found on boxwood. They cause damage by piercing and sucking sap from the buds of young leaves. This results in the foliage cupping. The leaves will be weakened and will typically fall off after one year.

Signs & Symptoms

- Leaf cupping towards the tips of the branches.

Life Cycle

- Psyllid overwinters as nymphs inside eggs that have been inserted between the bud scales.
- Once the nymphs emerge they begin feeding which in turn causes the cupping of the boxwood leaves.
- There is only one generation of psyllids per year and the boxwood tends to outgrow any injury by mid-summer.

Management

- If the infestation is small, do nothing. Most damage caused by the boxwood psyllid is aesthetic only.
- Prune out and destroy the cupped tips. If done before the nymphs mature, this will help decrease the eggs for the following year.
- Horticultural oil sprays in early May when new growth appears.
- Systemic insecticides, if there is a serious infestation.



Photos Missouri Botanical Garden