



KNOWING IS ½ THE BATTLE: Boxwood Blight

Boxwood blight (*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) is a fungal disease of boxwoods, sarcococca (sweetbox), and pachysandra. Originally found in Europe, boxwood blight was discovered in Connecticut and North Carolina Nurseries in 2011. Boxwood blight has recently been discovered in landscapes where new boxwoods have been installed since 2011.

Dark Lesions on Boxwood Stem.

Picture from AN&LN:

<http://www.anla.org/knowledgecenter/premium/index.cfm?view=player&colid=112&cid=324&mfid=5311&StartNum=1&scene=14416&CFID=4699910&CFTOKEN=79452626>



The disease causes defoliation and branch dieback on infected plants. The signs of boxwood blight are dark lesions on infected plants and stems. White fruiting structures on the lesions are another sign of the disease. All plants in the *Buxus* genus are susceptible to boxwood blight to some degree, with English and American boxwood being the most susceptible. On pachysandra there is a noticeable yellow halo around the dark lesions.

Dark Lesions on Boxwood Leaf.

Picture from AN&LN:

<http://www.anla.org/knowledgecenter/premium/index.cfm?view=player&colid=112&cid=324&mfid=5311&StartNum=1&scene=14416&CFID=4699910&CFTOKEN=79452626>



While boxwood blight can be very damaging, it is also treatable. Several commonly available fungicides work preventatively to protect boxwoods from this disease. Research from The North Carolina State University shows application intervals of 2 weeks during the infection period can prevent boxwood blight from becoming established on plants. Infection can occur over a wide temperature range, but is ideal in the mid-70s.

Susceptibility of Commercial Varieties to Box Blight (analysis based on final disease assessment)

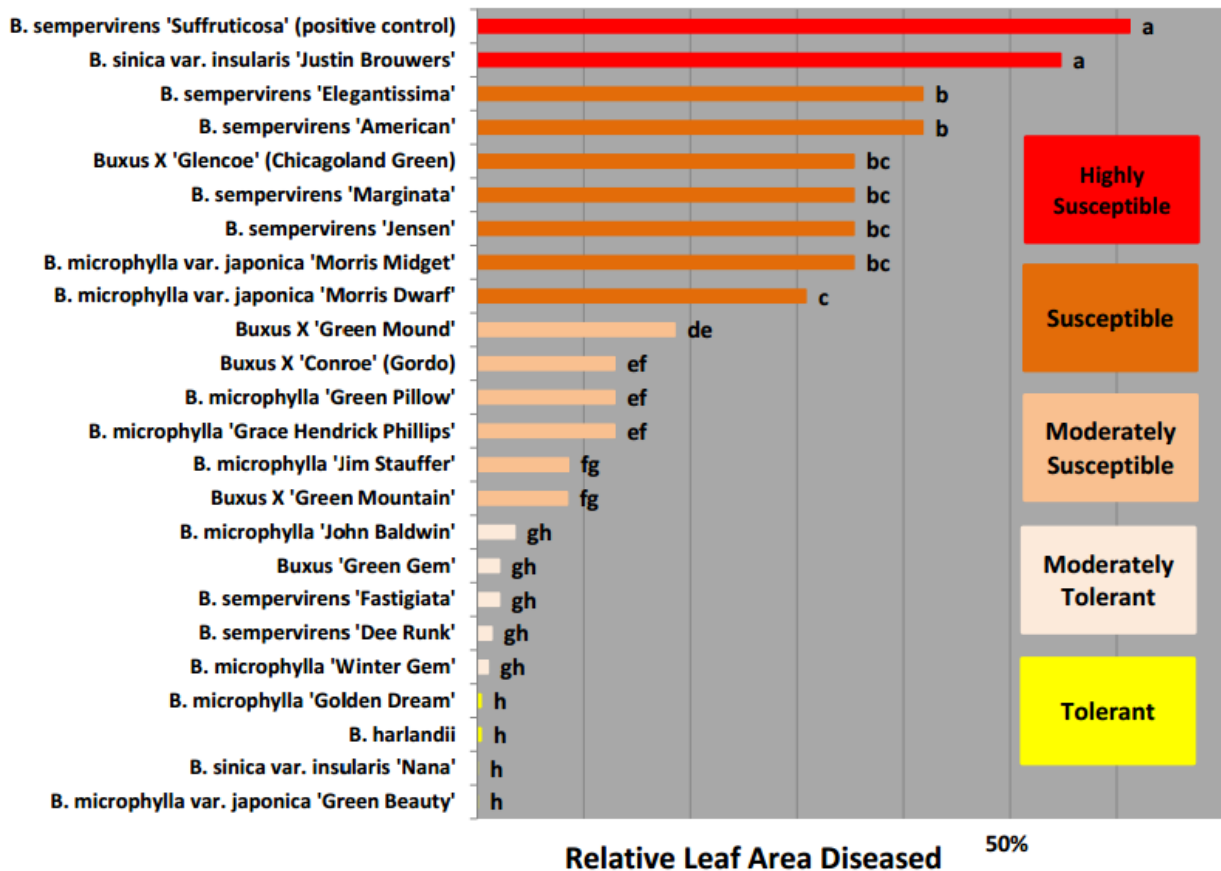


Table From NC State University:
http://go.ncsu.edu/boxwood_blight_links