

RESEARCH LABORATORY TECHNICAL REPORT



Boxwoods Resistant to Boxwood Blight

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Research that evaluated resistance of boxwood species and varieties to boxwood blight indicates that resistance is largely related to geographic origin of the plant. Asian species generally exhibit greatest resistances while European species show the greatest susceptibility. Hybrids between Asian and European plants exhibit intermediate resistance. Form and size also appears to have some influence on blight susceptibility. Boxwood selections with compact forms that exhibit slow growth are generally more susceptible than cultivars that have an open and larger form. The following boxwood species and cultivars exhibited the highest level of resistance in research conducted by North Carolina State University. Unless noted, these selections are suitable in hardiness zones 6 through 8.

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty'

Green Beauty Boxwood

A large maturing species, this Japanese boxwood selection attains a height of six-to-eight feet after 15 years in the landscape. The plant has a mounded, loose open form. Susceptible to boxwood leafminer. Remains green through winter.



Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Nana'

Dwarf Korean Boxwood

This cultivar is a dwarf, slow growing selection with a mounded form that is suitable as an edging boxwood. Attains a height of two feet with a potentially wider spread after 15 years. It is resistant to boxwood leafminer. Exhibits foliage yellowing in winter.



Buxus microphylla ‘Golden Dream’

Golden Dream Littleleaf Boxwood

This cultivar has leaves with gold variegation. The form is rounded and compact and reaches a height of two-three feet in 10-15 years. Foliage may bronze to some extent in winter especially in full sun and colder regions. Resistant to boxwood leafminer.



Buxus ‘Green Gem’

Green Gem Boxwood

A hybrid between *B. sempervirens* and *B. microphylla*, ‘Green Gem’ exhibits good resistance to boxwood blight but is susceptible to leafminer. This cultivar is rounded and compact with a height and spread of about two feet after 15 years. The foliage will bronze in winter when planted in full sun.



Buxus harlandii

Harland Boxwood

Harland boxwood has a mounded but loose, open form that attains a height of two to three feet in 10-15 years. The crown tends to be wider than tall. Harland box has an elongate, deep green leaf that tends to bronze/yellow in winter. This cultivar is also resistant to leafminer. Plant in zone 7 or warmer.



Buxus microphylla ‘John Baldwin’

John Baldwin Littleleaf Boxwood

A large, maturing boxwood with a conical to columnar form reaching ten feet or more after 15-20 years. ‘John Baldwin’ retains a deep green foliage color through winter and is resistant to boxwood leafminer.



***Buxus sempervirens* 'Dee Runk'**

Dee Runk Boxwood

'Dee Runk' boxwood is an upright variety that exhibits good resistance to boxwood blight and to boxwood leafminer. The plant grows relatively rapidly and can attain a height of eight feet in 10 years. Dee Runk holds its deep green color with little bronzing in winter, even when planted in full sun. *Buxus sempervirens* 'Fastigiata' has similar growth characteristics to 'Dee Runk' and exhibits good boxwood blight resistance.



***Buxus microphylla* 'Winter Gem'**

Winter Gem Littleleaf Boxwood

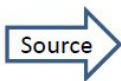
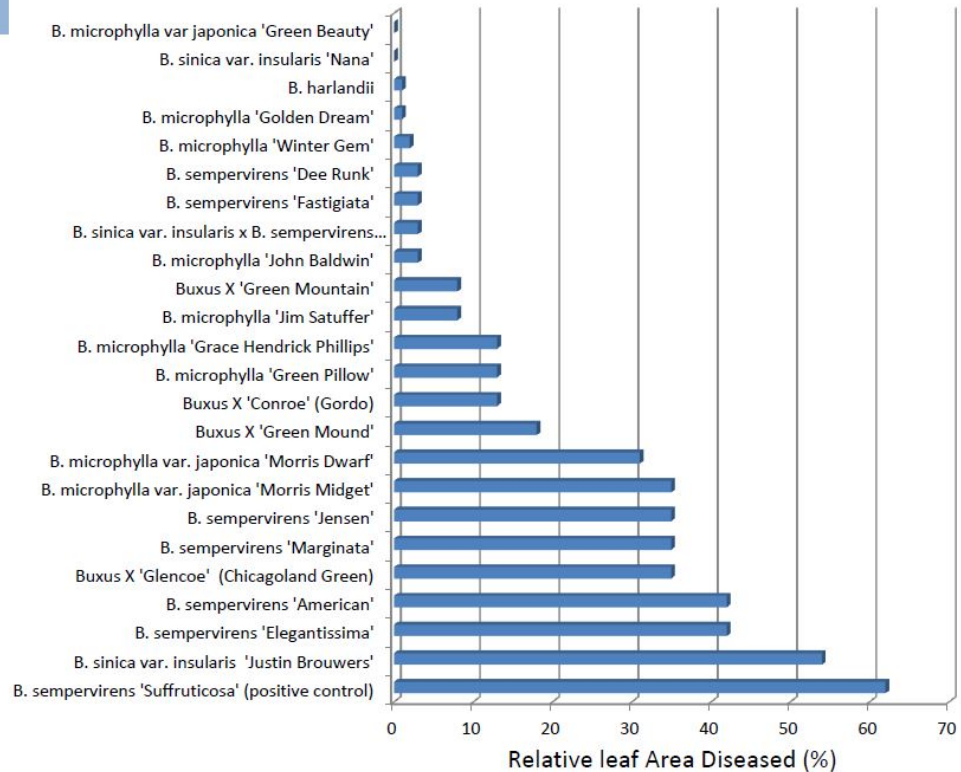
'Winter Gem' boxwood has a rounded form that grows relatively rapidly to a height and width of four feet after 10-15 years. New foliage is lime green turning deep green at maturity. Foliage tends to bronze in winter when planted in full sun especially in hardiness zone 6. Not recommended in zone 5 or colder.



Chart courtesy of NC State University

Resistance

Susceptibility of Some commercial varieties to Boxwood Blight in North Carolina (based on final disease assessment 2012)



Source: [Susceptibility of Commercial Boxwood Varieties to *Cylindrocladium buxicola* . Miranda Ganci, D. M. Benson and K. L. Ivors. Department of Plant Pathology. NC State University](#)

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