

Prevention of Boxwood Blight Transmission

Boxwood blight is highly contagious and the fungal pathogen can be readily spread on contaminated tools, spray hose and clothing. The following procedures are recommended to prevent the spread of the disease when working on boxwood plants.

1. Avoid contacting boxwood plants unless necessary during maintenance.
2. Avoid wearing fabric gloves and boots when handling boxwood. Washable boots and gloves will allow decontamination/sanitation between properties. Wear Tyvek or washable coveralls that can be removed after handling boxwood.
3. Use hose guides to minimize hose contact with boxwood plants during spraying and fertilizing boxwoods or nearby plants.
4. When fertilizing boxwood, broadcast granular products or use a liquid drench. Do not use soil probes that can readily move soil from plant to plant.
5. Sterilize tools after contact with plants using the following procedures:

- Wash, brush or wipe all soil and plant debris from tools, spray hose and clothing.
- Wipe down spray hose with Lysol Multi-Surface Cleaner (8 oz per gallon of water) (Figure 1). Allow the solution to remain wet on the hose for at least 10 minutes. Dip gloves used when spraying or handling the plants in the same solution.
- Prior to leaving a property with boxwood blight use a boot scrubber to remove any loose soil or debris from boots, and apply aerosol Lysol disinfectant (Figure 2) to sanitize the soles of boots.

Figure 1: Lysol Multi-Surface Cleaner- Mix 8 oz per gallon for disinfecting hoses, gloves and boots



- Spray tools used on boxwood such as hand pruners, sampling tools, spray/fertilizer nozzle with Lysol Aerosol Spray (Figure 2). Allow to dry on surface.
- If handling plants without gloves, wash hands and forearms with an antimicrobial hand soap upon completion.



Figure 2: Lysol Disinfectant Spray for sanitizing tools