

## **Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program**

The Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program is a series of steps that a KY grower will need to implement into their production system in order to ship to TN or PA. Once these steps are implemented, and have been verified by the KY State Entomologist's Office, then a compliance agreement will be signed between the nursery and the KY State Entomologist's Office. The compliance agreement will be renewed annually and there will be periodic checks throughout the year to ensure that the steps are being followed.

### **A. EXCLUSION OF THE PATHOGEN**

1. Utilize suppliers or nurseries that have been officially inspected and found to be apparently free from Boxwood Blight, or that participate in a Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program compliance agreement.
2. Inspect incoming host plants and/or cuttings at the time of delivery. If the host material is symptomatic, contact KY State Entomologist's Office immediately.
3. Newly received host plants or rooted cuttings shall be isolated by a minimum of 3 meters (approximately 10 feet), by a physical barrier or by another isolation method approved by the KY State Entomologist's Office, from existing host plants in the nursery for at least 30 days.
  - a. Keep newly received host plants from different suppliers and sources separated.
  - b. The isolation area will have a surface, such as concrete or landscape fabric, that can be cleaned of plant debris. All plant debris shall be regularly removed and destroyed-burned, buried, or bagged and secured in an approved sanitary landfill.
  - c. No fungicides shall be applied during the isolation/holding period.
  - d. The isolation area for incoming host plants must be positioned to prevent water runoff into stored potting media, and other host production areas.
4. Returns of host plants shall only be accepted into the isolation area and will be treated as newly received host plants (see 3 above). Do not allow returns that have been comingled with host plants from another source into the nursery.
5. Nursery stock delivery vehicles shall unload host plant material into the isolation area, or if a common loading dock must be used, cleanup and proper disposal shall occur immediately after unloading (see section C-1, below). Vehicles for plant transport must be free from host plants and debris before entering the host plant production area.

### **B. WATER MANAGEMENT**

1. Avoid overhead watering and conduct watering so as to allow leaves of host plants to dry before nightfall.

2. Monitor for host plant debris in water run-off. Minimize water run-off such that it does not run from one host plant production area into another.

3. Eliminate standing water in host plant blocks.

### **C. SANITATION**

1. Host plant production areas shall be inspected regularly for the accumulation of host plant debris. Minimize host plant debris by regular cleaning of the substrate and pot surfaces. Host plants or host plant debris shall not be used in compost.

2. Sanitize tools and equipment when moving between blocks/lots of host plant material, with an effective disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

3. After every crop production cycle, remove all crop debris and disinfect propagation mist beds, cutting benches, machines and tools, using an appropriately labeled disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

4. Use new or properly sanitized pots/flats for host plant production. Do not reuse potting mix in host plant production.

### **D. INSPECTION**

1. Trained personnel should inspect all host plants in the isolation area on a weekly basis, and other host plants monthly, throughout the growing season for symptoms of disease.

a. If Boxwood Blight symptoms are suspected, they shall be reported immediately to KY State Entomologist's Office in order to have the disease identified.

b. No symptomatic host plants shall be sold until they have been examined, tested and cleared by KY State Entomologist's Office.

### **E TRAINING**

1. The participant shall educate and train appropriate personnel on the following:

a. Recognizing basic signs and symptoms of Boxwood Blight.

b. Proper sanitation practices to meet the intent of this compliance agreement, including training on worker safety.

c. The stipulations of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program compliance agreement.

## **F RECORD KEEPING/TRACEABILITY**

1. Host plant records must be maintained for a minimum of 12 months and include the following:

- a. Incoming and returned plants, including quantity and sources.
- b. Location of isolation area(s) for incoming host plants.
- c. Shipping records (dates, quantities, plants shipped, destinations).
- d. All pesticide and fertilizer applications.
- e. Records of inspections conducted by trained personnel.
- f. Personnel training (dates, attendees, and trainer).

2. The participant shall allow the KY State Entomologist's Office to audit all necessary records and protocols to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. Interviews of employees may also be conducted to ensure compliance with training requirements.