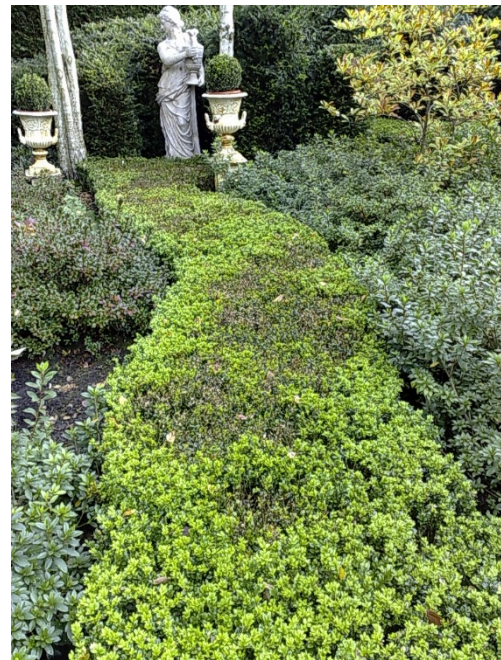


Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*)



BOX HEDGING FOLIAGE



SYMPTOMS OF BOX BLIGHT ON HEDGING



CLOSE UP OF BOX BLIGHT CAUSING DEATH OF FOLIAGE

HISTORY: Genus of about 70 species of evergreen shrubs and trees found in habitats ranging from rocky hills to woodland in Europe, Asia, Africa and Central America. Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) is the aristocrat of formal gardens. Dwarf varieties, known as English boxwood are extensively used as edging, hedges, and foundation plants. The larger varieties, known as American boxwood, are used as screens, foundation, and formal plantings

CULTURE: Boxwood performs best in partial shade but will tolerate full sun. Soils must be well drained, organic, slightly acid to neutral pH, and fertile. The shallow root system is intolerant of moisture extremes and competition with turf and other ground covers. A light layer of mulch benefits root development. Soil disturbances such as compaction, cultivation, and construction must be avoided in the plant's vicinity. On exposed sites, boxwood is very sensitive to foliage desiccation especially in winter.

CONCERNS: Boxwood is susceptible to a number of pests and disorders. Foliage feeding pests include psyllids, spider mites and leaf miners. Box blight is a potentially lethal disease while *Phytophthora* root rot is a leading cause of premature decline and death. Boxwood also is very sensitive to root feeding nematodes. Nematodes can severely stunt root growth and predispose plants to winter injury. Plants stressed by root disease, winter injury, or other factors are prone to canker diseases that cause branch and stem dieback.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: Sample soils for nutrient and pH levels especially if deficiency symptoms were evident during the growing season. If plants exhibit decline, sample roots or root collar for *Phytophthora* root rot. Check for box blight and treat with appropriate fungicide sprays.