



Monthly

December 2022



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

Latest Research

Ohkura, M., Scagel, C.F., and Weiland, J.E. 2022. Rapid and scalable DNA extraction and real-time PCR assay from boxwood tissue for the detection of *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*, causal agent of boxwood blight. Plant Disease published online at <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-06-22-1453-SR>.

Extension & Outreach Highlight

- BBIG Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 4 released and posted at the [project outreach website](#).
- BBIG website restructured with each of three tabs – [Research Updates](#), [Knowledge Center](#), and [About BBIG](#) having a dropdown menu for major sections to help viewers locate the information of their interest. Within each section, materials are better organized and annotated for the same purposes. Please check it out and let us know if you have further suggestions.
- Dr. Kara Mills, Oregon Department of Agriculture – Nursery and Christmas Tree Program Lead, presented the revised Oregon Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program to the BBIG team at our quarterly Project Directors/Associates meeting on November 16, 2022. One of the action items from this meeting was to add to the [Knowledge Center](#) a new section – State Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Programs including the state protocol and a list of nurseries that are currently enrolled into the Program/meeting the protocol requirements. We will begin this with Oregon and Virginia and gradually populate the section with materials from other states. Please send Chuan Hong at chhong2@vt.edu your state protocol and list and pass on this opportunity to state regulatory officers/pathologist who currently are not on this Google group list. This would be promotional for state Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Programs and the nurseries currently enrolled in this program – an important step to help growers, retailers, landscapers and consumers buy and grow clean boxwood stock plants.

Upcoming Event

- International Boxwood Seminar – Boxwood blight in the forests by Dr. Iryna Matsiakh of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences is scheduled for December 20 at 1 pm Eastern. This new seminar will provides new perspectives of the devastating disease in the forest settings. Again, this seminar is open to all stakeholders free of charge although pre-registration is required. Here is the link to register.

New Resource

- **Boxwood blight infection risk model** ([MyPest Page \(uspest.org\)](#)) to help time fungicide treatment.

BBIG Membership

Membership is open to everyone who is interested in fighting against boxwood blight. You can join by sending an email to boxwood-advocate-g+subscribe@vt.edu or chhong2@vt.edu.

Call for Submission

If you have news items to share with the BBIG community, please send to chhong2@vt.edu.

Together we can save boxwood crops and plantings.

