



Monthly

July 2024



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

News

- Ping Kong of Virginia Tech will be speaking about *Burkholderia* sp. SSG – a safe and powerful broad-spectrum biocontrol agent and biofertilizer at the 20th International Plant Protection Congress in Athens, Greece on July 3.
- Nina Shishkoff of USDA ARS Foreign Disease – Weed Science Research Unit will be presenting live at AmericanHort's Cultivate'24 on "Boxwood Blight: box cultivars, climate, and disease control" on July 14 from 9:30 - 10:20 am Eastern Time.
- Xiaoping Li of Virginia Tech will present "Tiny but mighty: Unlocking the microbiome potential to enhance boxwood resilience to diseases and environmental stress" at 1:00 pm Eastern Time on July 25. This is a BBIG Research Seminar done in collaboration with the Horticultural Research Institute.
- BBIG outreach website updated with a new tab of [Box Tree Moth](#) to help meet the emerging need for information about this invasive pest, in addition to latest research and innovation about boxwood blight mitigation.

Research Publications

- Khaliq, I., Brand, T., Daughtrey, M., Kong, P., and Hong, C. X. 2024. Investigating weather variables driving boxwood blight epidemics: insights from field trials with *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' in northern Germany between 2006 and 2020. Plant Pathology (accepted).

Extension Program & Presentation

- Hong, C. X. 2024. Boxwood blight and other signature programs. Statewide Annual Master Gardener College. June 7.

Online Resources

- [Boxwood Blight Knowledge Center](#).
- [Updated list of boxwood cultivars](#) resistant to both boxwood blight and leafminer.
- [Boxwood blight infection risk model](#) to help time fungicide treatment.
- [Box tree moth](#).
- [Boxwood leafminer risk model](#) to help time insecticide application.

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.

