



Monthly

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

News

- The BBIG Team including scientists and Advisory Panel members visited Bailey Nursery, Kraemer's Nursery, and Woodburn Nursery in the Willamette Valley of Oregon on February 15, 2023, learning firsthand the boxwood production process in this boxwood country, and hailing their practices – propagating only less susceptible cultivars, implementing a 'closed' system to fend off accidental pathogen introduction, and having a strict sanitation protocol in place. These practices are critical to producing blight-free boxwood crops. Visiting these large nurseries, including a drive-through of Monrovia Nursery, highlighted the size of Oregon's top agricultural commodity. A ferry ride, lunch at the Oregon Garden and a few chocolate hazelnuts introduced participants to some of Oregon's unique flavors. Thanks again to the three nurseries for sharing their time and insight into boxwood production as well as their hospitality, and to the Oregon Team (Jerry, Jay and Luisa) for arranging such an informative nursery tour.
- The BBIG Team held their second annual project meeting at the Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, Oregon on February 16, 2023, celebrating the USDA NIFA Partnership Award and other accomplishments during the second project year, and charting strategies forward to take this award-winning project to a new high. The meeting was held in a hybrid format to allow a few team members who were unable to attend in-person to connect and join the celebration. Also among the attendees were local industry leaders and key stakeholders. A total of 34 people attended this meeting. Thanks again to Victor Villegas, Technology & Media Support Coordinator, Oregon State University's Extension and Engagement Computing Technology Unit for setting up this hybrid meeting the day before and providing excellent on-site IT support throughout the day of February 16.

Latest Research

- Ghimire, B., Liyanage, K., Hall, C., and Baysal-Gurel, F. 2023. Investigating the growers' perceptions on boxwood blight disease management in the U.S. nursery industry. 2023 Annual Meeting of the APS Southern Division. Durham, NC. February 13-16.

Extension Highlight

- Daughtrey, M. 2023. Diseases to defend your plants against. Back 2 Basics. AmericanHort. Virtual. February 7.
- Daughtrey, M. 2023. Scouting skills for diseases on broadleaved woody plants. Sharpen Your Scouting Skills Workshop. Branching Out, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY. Virtual, February 9.
- Daughtrey, M. 2023. Understanding plant diseases. Master Gardeners of Fairfax County, Virginia. Virtual. February 15.
- Daughtrey, M. 2023. Diseases of ornamental plants. Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals Training. Virtual. February 21.

Online Resources

- Follow us at <https://twitter.com/boxwoodhealth> for the latest news and research publications.
- [Boxwood Blight Knowledge Center](#).
- [Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Model](#) 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.

