



Monthly

December 2023



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

News

- The BBIG project has been approved for a 1-year no-cost extension with a new termination date of August 31, 2025.
- Congratulations to Bhawana Ghimire on her oral presentation winning the second place at the 2023 Tennessee Academy of Science Meeting under the Agriculture – Plant Sciences Category.
- BBIG collaborator, Dr. Brittany Barker of Oregon State University, has developed [a new risk mapping app for boxwood blight in western Oregon and Washington](#). This new app uses climate data derived from the [PRISM](#) database at an 800 m² resolution and provides 3- and 4-day infection risk forecast. Four BBIG Team members – Luisa Santamaria, Jay Pscheidt, Ihsan Khaliq and Chuan Hong attended an app demonstration on November 13, providing feedback and discussing how to expand its application coverage beyond the areas west of the Cascades.

Dissertation

- Ghimire, B. 2023. Improving Woody Ornamental Crop Disease Mitigation through Innovation. PhD thesis. Tennessee State University.

Latest Research Presentations

- Ghimire, B., Parajuli, M., Simmons, T., Liyanapathiranage, P. and Baysal-Gurel, F. 2023. Enhancing the boxwood blight control using fungicides, antitranspirant, and host plant defense inducer. 2023 Tennessee Academy of Science Meeting. Memphis, TN. November 18.

Latest Extension/Outreach Presentations

- Hong, C. X. 2023. Boxwood Blight and other signature programs. The 2023 International Plant Propagator Society – Southern Region Annual Conference Attendee Tour of Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Beach, VA, October 23.
- Hong, C. X. 2023. Boxwood Blight and other signature programs. Old Dominion University/Biology Department Faculty Tour of Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Beach, VA, November 6.

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.

