



Monthly

April 2024



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

News

- BBIG welcomes two new members – Dr. John Dobbs and Dr. (Ayse) Filiz Gurel. John joined the Team at the USDA ARS Foreign Disease – Weed Science Research Unit as an ORISE Postdoctoral Fellow. He is working with Dr. Doug Luster on development of rapid diagnostic assays for the boxwood blight pathogens and with Dr. Jo Anne Crouch on pathogenomics of the same pathogens. Filiz joined the Team at the USDA ARS National Arboretum as an ORISE Visiting Scholar and she is working with Dr. Fred Gouker on blight resistance breeding.
- The boxwood blight and box tree moth webinar in the EPA IPM Webinar Series attracted 1,856 registrants from 49 states and 24 other countries. Actual attendance was 1,161 people, including several new stakeholder groups – foresters, schools/districts /childcare centers/universities representing 1.3M students. The webinar recording is being closed captioned and will be posted soon at the [On-Demand EPA Webinars](#) platform for those who would like to view or review.
- The BBIG Team including Project Directors, their associates, and Advisory Panel members will hold their third annual meeting via Zoom on May 7 and 9, both from 11 am to 3 pm EDT.

Research Publications

- Ohkura, M., Beck, B. R., Scagel, C. F., and Weiland, J. E. 2024. The effect of boxwood leaf volatiles on conidial germination of *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*, the causal agent of boxwood blight. *Phytopathology* (Published online at <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-12-23-0507-R>).

Extension Presentations

- Daughtrey, M. 2024. A Mish-Mash of Maladies. Long Island Horticulture Conference, Upton, NY. March 5.
- Daughtrey, M. 2024. Stay poised for plant disease management. Pests, Plagues and Pollinators, New York State Nursery and Landscape Assn. Virtual. March 21.
- Hong, C. X. and Simmons, G. 2024. Protecting boxwood against blight and box tree moth. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Pest Management Webinars. March 5.

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.

