



# Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
 Dannel P. Malloy, Governor; Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner  
 Robert R. Pellegrino, Bureau Director



Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503  
 Linda Piotrowicz, Interim Editor  
 Wednesday, April 18, 2012

## NOTES from the DEPARTMENT

### BOXWOOD BLIGHT—A NEW THREAT IN CT AND THE U.S.

By Dr. Sharon M. Douglas, Dept. Plant Pathology & Ecology  
 The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

In October 2011, boxwood plants with unusual symptoms were submitted to The Plant Disease Information Office of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) for diagnosis. Symptoms included leaf spots and blights, rapid defoliation, distinctive black cankers on stems, and severe dieback (Figure 1). The disease was tentatively identified as boxwood blight, caused by the fungus *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*.

Since this fungus had never been reported in the U.S., samples were sent to the national mycologists at the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) for identification. They confirmed the fungus as *C. pseudonaviculatum*. Boxwood blight has now been reported from five counties in Connecticut (Fairfield, Hartford, Middlesex, New London, and Windham), nine other states (NC, VA, RI, MA, MD, OH, OR, NY, and PA), and two Canadian provinces (BC and ON).

Boxwood blight was first observed in the United Kingdom (UK) in the mid-1990s, although the pathogen was not identified. In 2002, the disease was found in New Zealand and the causal agent was described and formally named as a new species, *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*. Boxwood blight also has been reported in many European countries. It is not known how or when the pathogen was introduced into the U.S.

Boxwood blight has been reported on all *Buxus* species, although some species and varieties appear to be more susceptible than others; *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' (English boxwood) and *B. sempervirens* (American or common boxwood) appear to be highly susceptible. Other species grown in Connecticut include many varieties of *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* (Korean boxwood), *Buxus microphylla* (little leaf boxwood), *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* (Japanese boxwood), and *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* X *B. sempervirens* hybrids. Experimental inoculations have demonstrated that *Sarcococca*, another member of the boxwood family (Buxaceae), is also susceptible. The complete host range of this pathogen is not known, but plant pathologists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station recently determined that *Pachysandra terminalis* (pachysandra, Japanese spurge) is also a host. This raises some concerns about pachysandra as a potential reservoir host for infection of boxwood.

*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* infects all aboveground portions of boxwood, but does not appear to infect the roots (Figure 1). Initial foliar symptoms appear as light to dark brown spots, often with dark borders. Spots enlarge and coalesce, often with a concentric pattern or zonate appearance, and distinctive black streaks or cankers develop on stems. Infected leaves become brown or straw colored, and defoliation occurs quickly once foliar symptoms are visible. Although the plant attempts to regrow, repeated infection and defoliation can weaken the root system and lead to plant death, especially for young plants or new transplants.

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Figure 1. Symptoms on a boxwood from a landscape planting.

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**WHOLESALE BERRIES SHIPPED IN**

	Low	High
BLACK CRNT,CH	34.00	34.00
BLACKBRY,12/6oz,MX	30.00	36.00
BLUEBRY,12/4.4,FL	15.00	16.00
BLUEBRY,12/6,med,CA	35.00	35.00
BLUEBBRY,12/6,org,FL	42.00	42.00
CAPE GOOSEBRY,12/3.5	28.00	28.00
GOOSEBRY,12/6,NZ	40.00	40.00
RASPBRY,12/6,Ign,CA	48.00	48.00
STRAWBRY,8/1lb,md,CA	16.00	21.00
STRAWBRY,8/1,org,CA	30.00	30.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

April 16, 2012

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

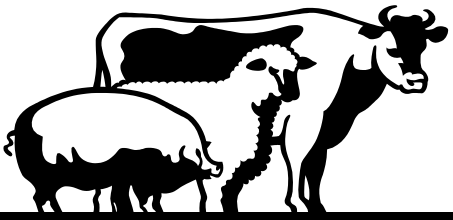
49-54	200-270 lbs	60.00-64.00
	270-300 lbs	58.00-63.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	45.00-50.00
	500-700 lbs	50.00-55.00
Boars:	300-700 lbs	29.00-31.00

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, April 16, 2012

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	50.00	60.00
61-75 lbs.	130.00	140.00
76-90 lbs.	150.00	155.00
91-105 lbs.	160.00	165.00
106 lbs. & up	170.00	175.00
Farm Calves	182.00	190.00
Veal Calves	125.00	147.50
Open Heifers	80.00	97.50
Beef Steers	85.00	110.00
Feeder Steers	65.00	125.00
Starter Calves	65.00	70.00
Beef Bulls	86.00	100.00
Sows	41.00	45.00
Butcher Hogs	85.00	100.00
Goats each	75.00	180.00
Kid Goats	23.00	50.00
Canners	Up to	80.75
Cutters	81.00	84.00
Utility Grade Cows	85.00	90.00
Rabbits each	5.00	37.50
Chickens each	6.00	45.00
Ducks each	15.00	29.00
Feeder Pigs	All at	80.00
Lambs	50.00	180.00
Sheep	105.00	125.00



**WHOLESALE VEGETABLES NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	Low	High
APPLE,CrtIhd,100 ct,fcy	20.00	20.00
APPLE,Mac,100ct,US1	18.00	18.00
APPLE,Red del,80ct,xfcy	18.00	18.00
CIDER,9-1/2gal	18.00	18.00
FIDDLEHEAD,10lb	75.00	80.00
LETTUCE,Bstn,12/4oz	14.00	16.00
PARSNIP,25lb	22.00	22.00
POTATO,10lb	2.90	3.00
TOMATO,Chrry,5lb flat	14.00	14.00
TOMATO,Grnhs,25lb,Ig	16.00	17.00

**SHIPPED IN**

	Low	High
ASPARAGUS,11lb,Ig,CA	22.00	23.00
BEAN,Grn,hnd pk,bu,FL	20.00	22.00
BROCCOLI,14ct,AZ	11.00	15.00
CABBAGE,Grn,50lb,FL	10.00	13.00
CANTALOUPE,12ct,HD	20.00	21.00
CHIVES,1kg,IS	20.00	22.00
CUKES, 1-1/9 bu,md,FL	18.00	24.00
COLLARDS,12-16,SC	12.00	13.00
CORN,4dz,FL	15.00	16.00
DANDELION GRNS,bu,NJ	17.00	17.00
EGGPLANT,1-1/9,md,FL	18.00	22.00
KALE,24s,AZ	12.00	13.00
LEEEKS,12s,NJ	16.00	18.00
LETTUCE, Grnlf,24,AZ	15.00	18.00
ONION,Green,48s,CA	11.00	14.00
ORANGE,88ct,CA	18.00	19.00
PEAS,Snow,10lb,GU	12.00	13.00
PEPPER,Grn,1-1/9,Ig,FL	18.00	20.00
SQUASH, Acorn,1-1/9bu,FL	33.00	35.00

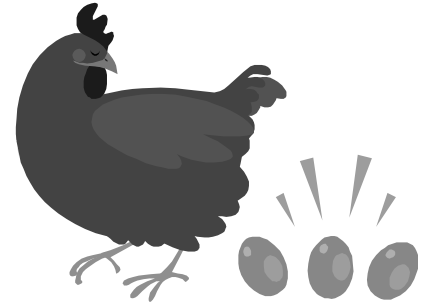
(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

**NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

April 16, 2012

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>			
Breakers	75-80%lean		
	88.00-93.00	94.00-98.50	78.50-83.00
Boners	80-85% lean		
	84.00-88.00	89.00-90.00	76.50-82.00
Lean	88-90% lean		
	77.50-82.00	83.00-87.00	70.00-76.00
<b>CALVES: All prices per cwt.</b>			
Graded Bull Calves: Number 1			
	95-125lbs	197.00-200.00	
	80-90lbs	190.00-210.00	
	Number 2	95-120lbs	170.00-200.00
	Number 3	95-125lbs	140.00-170.00
Holstein Heifers: Number 1			
	90-105 lbs	230.00-280.00	
Number 2			
	90-105 lbs	100.00-160.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:</b>			
Woolled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3			
	40-60lbs	355.00-274.00	
	60-80lbs	242.00-374.00	
	80-90lbs	230.00-254.00	
	90-110lbs	242.00-248.00	



**WEEKLY NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Prices paid per dozen. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	145-156
LARGE	142-153
MEDIUM	111-119

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

April 16, 2012

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, white eggs in cartons, warehouse, centers per dozen. (Range)

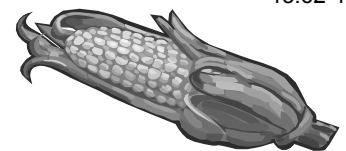
EXTRA LARGE	98-102
LARGE	96-100
MEDIUM	80-84

**PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN REPORT**

April 16, 2012

Grain market for eastern Pennsylvania.

Corn, No.2, bu.	6.70-7.03
Ear Corn, ton	190-190
Soybeans, No.2, bu.	13.62-14.01



110-130lbs	200.00-210.00
130-150lbs	155.00-178.00
Woolled & Shorn Choice 2-3	
40-60lbs	258.00-264.00
60-80lbs	246.00-254.00
80-90lbs	200.00-218.00
90-110lbs	180.00-200.00
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh</b>	
120-160lbs	98.00-106.00
160-200lbs	80.00-96.00
200-300lbs	70.00-86.00
Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh	
120-160lbs	64.00-86.00
160-200lbs	60.00-79.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on est. weights.</b>	
20-40lbs	N/A
40-60lbs	138.00-170.00
60-80lbs	167.00-185.00
90-100lbs	184.00-205.00
110-130lbs	N/A
Nannies/Does: 80-130lbs	158.00-171.00
130-180lbs	164.00-179.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150lbs	178.00-198.00
150-250lbs	225.00-240.00



## ADVERTISEMENTS

### FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now CT's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheepbreeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance--we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800 554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

4-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing 203-788-2430.

10-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

31-R. Kiln dried sawdust for bedding, excellent for cows and horses. Good rates. Trailer load. Call for price in your area @ 860-974-3853.

51-R. "Woods" 5' PTO Finch mower, serviced, ready to work, extra blades. \$750.00 "Woods", 6' PTO bush mower, extra blades, plus parts mower. \$800.00. New 8 frame bee hives, complete with 16 Pierco frames, \$150.00 each. "Woodlot" 6.5 acres, perfect for camp, agriculture, hunting, in the middle of the woods. \$30,000.00. 860-423-1347. Cell 617-308-3015.

57-R. Beef heifers, crosses and purebreds. Open and bred. Call Diane. 860-620-0194.

58-R. JD 6310 4x4 640 loader, \$26,000.00. 6405 2WD with loader low hours \$26,000.00. JD 750 2WD with loader \$4,500.00. IH 986 2WD \$8,500.00. NH 575 baler with thrower \$11,000.00. NH 311 baler. NH 315 with thrower. JD 336 with kicker. NH 256, 258 rakes. New Pequeaueu 11 ft. rotary rake. JD 660 rake. New 17 ft. Morra hydraulic fold tedder. NH BR 730 round baler like new \$11,000.00. JD 1600 4 bottom reset plow. IH 710 4 bottom, (2) 720 4 bottom reset plows. JD B, 530, 730 tractors. new and used metal kicker wagons. New yellow roofs for JD roll bars \$800.00. Case IH SBX 520 baler same as NH 565, like new \$7,500.00. 203-530-4953.

60-R. Liability coverage for sale of raw milk--call Blumenthal & Donahue for a no obligation quote. 800-554-8049.

61-R New & used farm tractor Massey Ferguson & Yanmars starting out at \$13,500. Tractor & loader. 0% financing 72 months. Krone haying equipment rake, tedder, mowers & more. OPEN HOUSE April 21<sup>st</sup>, 9-2. Website--[www.bigboystoysllc.net](http://www.bigboystoysllc.net). Scenic Rte 169, Pomfret, CT Lots of equipment new & used. 860-928-9778. Great financing available

63-R Sawdust, landscape materials, compost. 860-642-7084. [blueslopesawdust@hotmail.com](mailto:blueslopesawdust@hotmail.com)

### MISCELLANEOUS

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

11-R. Lily's LLC Appraisal Services specializes in Estates, Commercial & Industrial, Residential, Agricultural, Conservation Easements and Reevaluation Appraisals. Call Lori Longhi at 860-463-9997.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Connecticut farmers, specialty food producers, visit [http://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP\\_Search/BidDetail.aspx?CID=25030](http://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Search/BidDetail.aspx?CID=25030) to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) due May 15, 2012. There will be an informational meeting about this RFP at 10:00 a.m. on April 30, 2012, at the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 161, Hartford, CT. Questions will be gathered and answers sent to all applying. For more information, contact Ann Simeone at [Ann.Simeone@ct.gov](mailto:Ann.Simeone@ct.gov) or 860-713-505.

### BOXWOOD BLIGHT—A NEW THREAT IN CT AND THE U.S. (continued from Page 1)

To date, the only residential properties that have tested positive for boxwood blight are those where new boxwood plants were installed during 2011. We observed several examples of established boxwood plantings that appeared to be killed in one season following the introduction of presumably infected plants (Figure 2). Boxwood blight spreads very rapidly under warm and humid conditions and 2011 was a moderately warm, wet year with several violent rain events.



Figure 2. Seven-year-old planting of boxwood infected with blight.

Boxwood is a mainstay of Connecticut landscapes for many reasons, including its deer resistance. The current U.S. wholesale market value for boxwood nursery production is estimated at \$103 million annually. Boxwood is an important and valuable crop to Connecticut nursery growers, garden centers, and landscapers and contributes to the total annual sales of the green industry in Connecticut that exceed \$1 billion. Boxwood blight has been a serious problem in commercial production nurseries, garden centers, and wholesale distributors where conditions are often favorable for infection because boxwood plants are in close proximity, are watered overhead, and leaf debris is abundant. Outbreaks have resulted in significant economic losses in Connecticut, estimated at approximately \$3 million since October 2011.

The boxwood blight pathogen has a rapid disease cycle that can be completed in one week. It thrives in a temperature range of 41-86 °F, with an optimum temperature of 77 °F. The fungus does not require a wound to infect, but moisture is necessary for infection. We have isolated the fungus from symptomless plants. The fungus produces many spores (conidia) in a slimy matrix and it survives in leaves and cankers of infected plants and for up to five years in leaf debris (fallen, infected leaves).

Boxwood blight spores are splash-dispersed and can be carried by wind or wind-driven rain over short distances. Longer distance spread is thought to occur through the activities of humans (e.g., contaminated boots, clothing, and equipment), animals, and birds, since the spores are sticky. Infected plant material is the primary means for long-distance spread. The key factor for unintentional spread of this disease, called the "Trojan horse" or "Typhoid Mary" syndrome, is the movement of apparently "healthy" boxwood (infected, but asymptomatic or having very limited outward symptoms) or boxwood treated with fungicides that suppress, but do not kill or eradicate the fungus.

(continued on Page 4)



## BOXWOOD BLIGHT—A NEW THREAT IN CT AND THE U.S. (continued from Page 3)

Boxwood in production and landscapes are susceptible to several diseases that can be confused with boxwood blight. These include *Volutella* blight, *Macrophoma* leaf spot, boxwood decline, winter injury, mites, and leafminer. Boxwood can often be infected with more than one pathogen or pest—we have commonly found boxwood blight along with *Volutella* canker and/or *Macrophoma* leaf spot or with infestations of leafminer. Therefore, proper laboratory diagnosis is required.

### MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Whether in the nursery, garden center, or landscape, management of boxwood blight requires aggressive measures that include combined use of culture, scouting, sanitation, and when appropriate, fungicide sprays. This disease is generally considered a serious disease affecting the quality and aesthetics of plants, but it can lead to plant death. It is important to start with pathogen-free material by purchasing from reputable nurseries or garden centers. Plants should be carefully inspected for symptoms at time of purchase or planting. Newly purchased plants should be isolated from existing boxwood plantings or production areas and monitored for symptoms for at least four weeks prior to planting. Adequate spacing between plants can help to maximize air circulation and minimize conditions favorable for disease development and spread. It is helpful to avoid overhead watering, since water is important for spreading the fungus. It also helps to avoid working with plants when they are wet, to avoid spreading the fungus during these types of activities. Sanitation, accomplished by raking and removing leaf debris, is critical for eliminating and reducing inoculum,

since the fungus can survive in plant debris for up to five years. Scout and inspect all boxwood plants weekly. As soon as boxwood blight symptoms are detected, immediately dig whole plants and place them in plastic bags to avoid carrying infected material through a landscape. Infected plant material should NOT be composted. If you observe suspicious symptoms, it is important to have the disease accurately identified by a specialist (plant pathologist). Planting less susceptible species of boxwood or alternatives to boxwood can reduce the potential for disease. Examples of alternative plants include some dwarf cultivars of *Ilex crenata*, *Pieris japonica*, *Rhododendron* spp., and *Taxus baccata*.

The final strategy for managing boxwood blight involves selection, timing, and application of fungicide sprays. Reports on fungicide efficacy from Europe and the UK show that fungicides are not curative, but can be used as protectants. For Connecticut homeowners, the fungicides chlorothalonil and mancozeb are registered for use.

If you observe suspicious symptoms on boxwood, it is important to have the disease accurately identified by a specialist. The most current information on boxwood blight can be found on the Boxwood Blight page on the Experiment Station's website, [www.ct.gov/caes/pdio](http://www.ct.gov/caes/pdio).

### FREE SOCIAL MEDIA FOR FARMS WEBINAR MAY 2

A free webinar on social media strategies for farms will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

For more information, contact webinar hosts

[lisa.chase@uvm.edu](mailto:lisa.chase@uvm.edu), [jessica.a.schmidt@uvm.edu](mailto:jessica.a.schmidt@uvm.edu), [ecurry@ShelburneFarms.org](mailto:ecurry@ShelburneFarms.org), or [blamsden@plymouth.edu](mailto:blamsden@plymouth.edu).



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#### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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