

**Alabama Department of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture and Industries  
Plant Protection Section**

**Boxwood Blight Compliance Agreement for Production Nurseries and Dealers**

**Agreement number:**

**Business Name and Address: Locations(s):**

**Email:**

**GPS Coordinates:**

**Regulated Articles: *Buxus spp.*, *Sarcococca spp.***

**Applicable State Quarantine(s) or regulations and authority (if applicable):**

**Introduction:**

\_\_\_\_\_ has been inspected by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and found to be apparently free from Boxwood Blight. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries hereby approves \_\_\_\_\_ as a participant in the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program.

Boxwood Blight is caused by the fungus *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* (syn. *C. buxicola*). *Buxus spp.* and *Sarcococca spp.* are known hosts of Boxwood Blight. The participant agrees to grow species and cultivars of Boxwood Blight host plants according to best management practices designed to prevent the introduction and minimize the risk of spreading Boxwood Blight. This agreement does not preclude the inspection, sampling, and testing of plants by the destination State Department of Agriculture or similar authority and rejection as a result of any positive finds.

To meet the requirements of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program, the participant agrees to the following:

**A. EXCLUSION OF THE PATHOGEN**

1. Utilize suppliers or nurseries that participate in a Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program.
2. Inspect incoming host plants and/or cuttings at the time of delivery. If the host material is symptomatic, contact the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries immediately.
3. Newly received host plants or rooted cuttings shall be isolated by a minimum of 3 meters (approximately 10 feet), by a physical barrier, or by another isolation method approved by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries from existing host plants in the nursery for at least 30 days.
  - a. Keep newly received host plants obtained from different suppliers and sources separated.

- b. The isolation area will have a surface, such as concrete or landscape fabric, that can be cleaned of plant debris. All plant debris shall be regularly removed and destroyed by burning, burying, or bagging and disposal in an approved sanitary landfill.
  - c. No fungicides active against *Cylindrocladium sp.* shall be applied during the isolation/holding period.
  - d. The isolation area for incoming host plants must be positioned to prevent water run-off into potting media and other host production areas.
4. Returns of healthy host plants shall be accepted into the isolation area and treated as newly-received host plants (see 3 above). Do not allow returns that have been comingled with host plants from another source into the nursery. Accepting returns of diseased or unhealthy plants is discouraged.
  5. Nursery stock delivery vehicles shall unload host plant material into the isolation area, or if a common loading dock must be used, cleanup and proper disposal shall occur immediately after unloading (see section C-1, below). Vehicles for plant transport must be free from host plants and debris before entering the host plant production area.

## **B. WATER MANAGEMENT**

1. Overhead watering should be avoided and host plants should be watered as to allow leaves to dry before nightfall. Proper plant spacing will facilitate quicker drying.
2. Best management practices require nurseries and greenhouses to treat recycled irrigation or run-off water by appropriate methods (e.g., chlorine, sand filtration, settling ponds) to reduce the risk of spreading pathogens through irrigation. Irrigation water from sources other than wells or municipal water sources should be treated appropriately and tested periodically by a private testing laboratory at the nursery's expense for water quality and water-borne pathogens.
3. Monitor for host plant debris in water run-off. Minimize water run-off such that it does not run from one host plant production area into another.
4. Minimize standing water in host plant blocks.

## **C. SANITATION**

1. Host plant production areas shall be inspected regularly for the accumulation of host plant debris. Minimize host plant debris by regular cleaning of the substrate and pot surfaces. Host plants or host plant debris shall not be used in compost.
2. Sanitize tools and equipment between blocks/lots of host plant material with an effective disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (1:9 solution of 5.25% NaOCl commercial bleach:water). Dip tools for 5 minutes.
3. After every crop production cycle, remove all crop debris and disinfect propagation mist beds, cutting benches, machines, and tools, using an appropriately labeled disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (1:9 solution of 5.25% NaOCl commercial bleach:water).
4. Use new, sanitized or pots/flats that have been thoroughly cleaned of soil and plant debris for host plant production. Do not reuse potting media.

## **D. INSPECTION**

1. Trained personnel should inspect all host plants in the isolation area on a weekly basis and other host plants monthly, throughout the growing season for symptoms of disease.

- a. If boxwood blight symptoms are detected they shall be reported immediately to the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to have the disease identified.
  - b. No symptomatic host plants shall be sold until they have been examined, tested and cleared by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.
2. The nursery shall allow the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to conduct inspections and, if necessary, collect samples to test for the presence of Boxwood Blight.
3. Containerized plants should be consolidated into exclusive blocks prior to inspection for a phytosanitary certificate. After inspection, containerized plants must remain in the location in which they were inspected until all plants in the block have shipped. Movement of plants from the block or movement of additional plants into the block will require a new inspection and issuance of a new phytosanitary certificate.

#### **E. TRAINING**

1. The participant shall educate and train appropriate personnel on the following:
  - a. Recognizing basic signs and symptoms of Boxwood Blight.
  - b. Proper sanitation practices to meet the intent of this compliance agreement, including training on worker safety.
  - c. The stipulations of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program compliance agreement.
2. Approved training materials may be obtained from the websites of AmericanHort, the Horticultural Research Institute, and the National Plant Board. Materials may also be obtained from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

#### **F. RECORD KEEPING/TRACEABILITY**

1. Host plant records shall be made available upon request. Records must be maintained for a minimum of 12 months and include the following:
  - a. Incoming and outgoing (inspected) plants and returned plants
    - i. Maintain a complete history of plants while they are in the nursery, including quantity and sources
  - b. Location of isolation area(s) for incoming host plants
    - i. location of incoming plants must be fixed for entire duration of isolation
    - ii. changes in the number of incoming plants in isolation area vs the number at the end of isolation period must be explained by plant records
  - c. Shipping records (dates, quantity, plants shipped, inspection block location, destinations)
  - d. Propagation of plant material
  - e. Mortality due to any cause
  - f. Pesticide/Fungicide applications
  - g. Inspection Records
  - h. Personnel training (dates, attendees, subject matter, trainer)
2. The participant shall allow the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to audit all necessary records and protocols to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. Interviews of employees may also be conducted to ensure compliance with training requirements.

This Agreement becomes effective when signed and will remain in effect for one year unless rescinded for non-compliance, but may be revised as necessary. Noncompliance will result in suspension of this agreement until corrective actions are taken. In the event of the detection of Boxwood Blight at this location, this agreement shall be voided or suspended until remedial action can be taken to meet the requirements of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries shall provide an official written statement that attests to the following: "The nursery has been inspected and found to be apparently free of Boxwood Blight, *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*. The responsible party has agreed to the stipulations of a compliance agreement designed to prevent the introduction and minimize the risk of spreading Boxwood Blight."



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

PLANT PROTECTION SECTION  
1445 Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123

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John McMillan, Commissioner

### Boxwood Blight Compliance Agreement

Business Name:

Business Address:

Email:

Regulated Articles: *Buxus spp.* and *Sarcococca spp.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the undersigned, agree to handle, pack, process, and move host plants of boxwood blight in accordance with all applicable best management practices, nursery laws and regulations; use all permits and certificates in accordance with instructions; maintain and offer for inspection such records as may be required; and abide by the above listed stipulations. The affixing of the signatures below will validate this agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Government Official (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agreement Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date