



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Boxwood

Boxwood prefers a partially shaded location, but will grow in full sun, are evergreen, and can be sheared to the desired shape and size. Soil fertility is not critical if soil pH is 6.5-7.0. They are intolerant of heavy, wet soils. The most common damage we see on boxwood is winter damage caused by exposure to winter sun and wind. The most common disease problem found on samples submitted to the Plant Health Clinic is **Pseudonectria canker/Volutella leaf and stem blight, caused by *Pseudonectria rousseliana*, imperfect state *Volutella buxi***. In the spring, certain branches do not put on new growth. Leaves on infected branches become tan-colored, lie close to the stem, and turn upward. Bark at the base of the infected stem has gray to black discoloration under the bark. Under humid conditions, pink to salmon orange spore-producing masses called sporodochia can be seen covering stems and leaves. Spores resemble Phomopsis spores, are clear-colored and ellipsoid. Control consists of removing infected branches as soon as they are seen, cleaning up all leaves caught within the shrub and on the ground, and the application of copper-based fungicides during the dormant season before new growth starts in the spring.

A fungicide containing chlorothalonil may be used during the growing season. It is very helpful to maintain a proper water regimen during the entire year to reduce stress. Boxwoods need watered during the winter if it is a dry winter. This is true of all evergreens. Another fungus frequently seen on boxwood is ***Macrophoma candollei***. Numerous black fruiting bodies can be seen as dark specks on dead leaves. Spores are 36-40µm x 10-11.5µm, clear colored and densely granular. This is a secondary colonizer of dead leaves, and its presence indicates that other diseases or environmental actors stress the plant. No controls for *Macrophoma* are recommended; prune out the dead twigs.

Boxwood Volutella Blight- *Volutella buxi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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Boxwood Volutella Blight Orange fruiting bodies-*Volutella* *buxi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Boxwood Volutella Blight- *Macrophoma candollei*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Boxwood Volutella Blight Spores-*Volutella buxi*

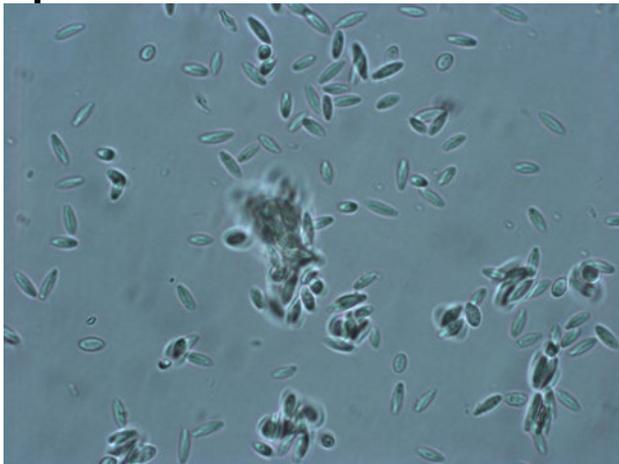


Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Boxwood Macrophoma Spores- *Macrophoma candollei*

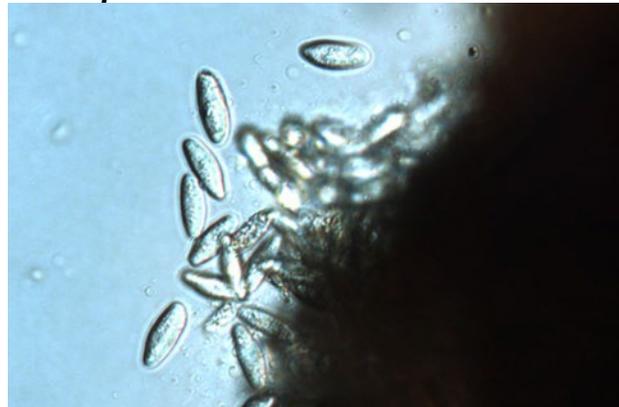


Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Sherrie Smith
Keiddy Urrea

Basil

Bacterial Leaf Spot and Blight of Basil is caused by *Pseudomonas cichorii*. Symptoms begin as greenish water-soaked spots that rapidly turn dark brown to black. Black streaks may appear on stems and petioles. Heavily infected plants may collapse. The bacterium is favored by warm, wet growing conditions, and is easily spread by water splash. It is best to remove infected plants and begin again with clean pots, potting soil, and disease-free plants. Watering practices that prevent water splash and wetting of the foliage are recommended. Space plants for good air circulation. Other greenhouse plants such as chrysanthemums, geraniums, among others may also be infected with *Pseudomonas cichorii*.

Basil Bacterial Blight- *Pseudomonas cichorii*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Basil Bacterial Blight- *Pseudomonas cichorii*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Strawberry

Growers are applying weed control in their middles using glyphosate (Roundup), without using proper precautions. Even when applied by mop, you must ensure application occurs when there is no breeze.

Strawberry Roundup damage- Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Strawberry Roundup damage- Abiotic



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This bulletin from the Cooperative Extension Plant Health Clinic (Plant Disease Clinic) is an electronic update about diseases and other problems observed in our lab each month. Input from everybody interested in plants is welcome and appreciated.

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