

## Boxwood Blight: Invasive Disease Alert

**Pathogen** (fungus) *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* (syn. *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*, *C. buxicola*)

**Hosts** Various within the Buxaceae family; confirmed on *Buxus*, *Pachysandra*, and *Sarcococca*

### Symptoms

#### Leaf Spots

Spots start off as light or dark brown circular areas on leaves, usually with a yellow halo. As the spots increase in size, the entire leaf will become blighted.



Photo credits: left: N. Gregory, University of Delaware; right: North Carolina State University Plant Disease and Insect Clinic

If you suspect Boxwood Blight, please contact the University of Illinois Plant Clinic at (217) 333-0519 or [plantclinic@illinois.edu](mailto:plantclinic@illinois.edu)

### Stem Cankers

Dark brown or black, diamond-shaped or linear cankers are clearly defined against the green stems.



Photo credits: left: Kelly Ivors, California Polytechnic State University; right: Nicole Ward Gauthier, UK

### Defoliation

This is a characteristic symptom of boxwood blight as other, more common boxwood problems do not cause defoliation.



Photo credits: left: Kate Aitkenhead, USDA APHIS-PPQ; right: Kelly Ivors, North Carolina State University