



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS
2280 Bethany Rd Suite B DeKalb, Illinois 60115 U.S.A.**

Boxwood Blight Compliance Agreement for Production Nurseries

Agreement number: BWB2023-089-4553-01.

Business Name and Address:

Midwest Ground Cover LLC. P. O. Box 748 St. Charles, IL 60174

Locations(s):

SAME & Virgil Rt. 64

Email:

Midwestgroundcover.com

Regulated Articles:

Common or American boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*
English boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens* Suffruticosa
Korean boxwood, *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*
Littleleaf boxwood, *Buxus microphylla*
Japanese boxwood, *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*
Japanese pachysandra, *Pachysandra terminalis*
Sweet box, *Sarcococca* spp.

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

Introduction:

Midwest Ground Cover LLC has been inspected by Illinois Department of Agriculture throughout 2022 from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 and found to be apparently free from Boxwood Blight. The Illinois Department of Agriculture hereby approves Midwest Ground Cover LLC 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:

Initials by both parties: CC

KS

A. EXCLUSION OF THE PATHOGEN

1. Utilize suppliers or nurseries that have been officially inspected by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and found to be apparently free from boxwood blight or hold a "Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program compliance agreement".
2. Inspect incoming host plants and/or cuttings at the time of delivery. If the host material is symptomatic, contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture 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 Illinois Department of Agriculture from existing host plants in the nursery for at least 30 days.
 - a. Keep newly received host plants obtained from different vendors 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 removed on a weekly basis.
 - 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 host plants shall only 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.
5. Unload incoming vehicles delivering host plant material into the isolation area, or if a common loading dock must be used, clean up and proper disposal shall occur after unloading (see C1). Vehicles for pick-up must be free from host plants and debris before entering the host plant production area.

B. WATER MANAGEMENT

1. Avoid overhead watering and conduct watering so as to allow leaves of host plants to dry before nightfall.
2. 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.
3. 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 (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

Initials by both parties:

C.L.

JKS

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 (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

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 mix previously used in host plant production unless the used potting media has been sterilized.

D. INSPECTION

1. Inspect all host plants in the isolation area on a weekly basis and other host plants monthly throughout the growing season by trained personnel.
 - a. If boxwood blight symptoms are detected they shall be reported immediately to the Illinois Department of Agriculture to have the disease identified.
 - b. No symptomatic host plants shall be sold until it has been examined and cleared by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
2. The nursery shall allow the Illinois Department of Agriculture access to conduct inspections and, if necessary, collect samples to test for the presence of Boxwood Blight.

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 ANLA Boxwood Blight website, National Plant Board website or from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

F. RECORD KEEPING/TRACEABILITY

1. Records shall be made available upon request for verification. Records of host plants will be maintained for a minimum of 12 months for the following:
 - a. Incoming plants including quantity and sources
 - b. Location of isolation area(s) for incoming host plants
 - c. Shipping records (dates, quantity, plants shipped, destinations)
 - d. Fungicide applications
 - e. Inspection Records
 - f. Personnel training (dates, attendees, subject matter, trainer)
2. The participant shall allow the Illinois Department of Agriculture 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.

Initials by both parties:

CC

KS

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. 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 the satisfaction of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture 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."**

I, Cesar Coronado 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.



Cesar Coronado
Name (Please Print)

6/1/23
Date

Cesar Coronado
Signature

Plant Health Manager
Title

Kris Smrkar
State Government Official (Print)

BWB 2023-089-4553-1
Agreement Number

Kris Smrkar
Signature

6/1/23
Date

1-1-23
Effective Date

12-31-23
Expiration Date

Initials by both parties: C.C.

KS