



# Monthly

## September 2023



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

### News

- BBIG launched a new webinar series – BBIG Boxwood Blight Seminars with an inaugural presentation – Battling boxwood blight – by Dr. James LaMondia aired on August 23. This new Seminar series was instituted for the BBIG Team to share their latest research and innovations, expediting technology transfer from lab to field to serve the purposes. Again, this series is conducted in partnership with the AmericanHort foundation – the Horticultural Research Institute.
- BBIG showcased at three (inter)national conferences: 1) Annual Meeting of the American Society of Horticultural Sciences (ASHS) in Orlando, FL from July 31 to August 4; 2) Plant Health 2023 – Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) in Denver, CO from August 12 to 16; and 3) the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Plant Pathology in Lyon, France from August 20 to 25.
- Boxwood blight alert posted on the Facebook of [Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook](#) on August 30 due to anticipated rainy weather conditions.

### Latest Research Publication

- Li, X. P., Omolehin, O., Hemmings, G., Tseng, H. T., Taylor, A., Taylor, C., Kong, P., Daughtrey, M., Luster, D., Gouker, F., and Hong, C. X. 2023. Boxwood phyllosphere fungal and bacterial communities and their differential responses to film-forming antidesiccants. *BMC Microbiology* 23, 219 ([open access](#)).

### Latest Research Presentation

- Daughtrey, M. L., Luster, D. G., Calabro, J., Gray, J., Hall, C., Weiland, E., Baysal-Gurel, F., Gouker, F., Kong, P., Crouch, J. A., LaMondia, J., Pscheidt, J., Santamaria, L., Shishkoff, N., Snover-Clift, K., and Hong, C. X. 2023. Fighting a good fight against an invasive pathogen through an international consortium; the Boxwood Blight Insight Group (BBIG). *Plant Health 2023 – APS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 12 to 16.*
- Ghimire, B., Liyanage, K., Pendyala, B., Patras, A., Hall, C., and Baysal-Gurel, F. 2023. Understanding nursery grower's perspectives on managing boxwood blight disease and developing innovative control methods (Oral talk). *ASHS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, July 31 to August 4.*
- Ghimire, B., Liyanage, K., Pendyala, B., Patras, A., Hall, C., and Baysal-Gurel, F. 2023. Understanding nursery grower's perspectives on managing boxwood blight disease and developing innovative control methods (Scholar's Ignite Session). *ASHS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, July 31 to August 4.*
- Ghimire, B., Parajuli, M., Simmons, T., Liyanapathirana, P., and Baysal-Gurel, F. 2023. Comparative performance of fungicides, host plant defense inducers and antitranspirant in management of boxwood blight. *Plant Health 2023 – APS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 12 to 16.*
- Kodati, S. and LaMondia, J. 2023. Duration of protection offered by fungicides against boxwood blight. *Plant Health 2023 – APS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 12 to 16.*
- Kong, P., and Hong, C. X. 2023. *Burkholderia* sp. SSG – a powerful new management tool for crop health and production. *The 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Plant Pathology, Lyon, France, August 20 to 25.*
- Li, X. P., Weiland, J., Ohkura, M., Kong, P., and Hong, C. X. 2023. Comparative analysis of boxwood shoot endophytic microbiota between two major boxwood producing regions in the United States. *Plant Health 2023 – APS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 12 to 16.*
- Ohkura, M., Scagel, C., and Weiland, J. 2023. The effect of host volatiles on the sporulation and germination of *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*, the causal agent of boxwood blight. *Plant Health 2023 – APS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 12 to 16.*
- Omolehin, O., Kong, P., Hemmings, G., Taylor, A., Tseng, H. T., Taylor, C., Li, X. P., Khaliq, I., Daughtrey, M. L., Luster, D. G., and Hong, C. X. 2023. Field Performance of selected biological control agents for protecting Vardar

Valley boxwood from infection by *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*. Plant Health 2023 – APS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 12 to 16.

## Latest Extension Publication

- Bily, D., and Hong, C. X. 2023. [Best management practices for boxwood blight in Virginia nurseries](#). Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication – SPES-516NP.

## Online Resources

- Follow us at <https://twitter.com/boxwoodhealth> for the latest news and research publications.
- [Boxwood Blight Knowledge Center](#).
- [Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Model](#) to help time fungicide treatment.
- [Box Tree Moth](#)
- [Boxwood leafminer risk model](#) to help time insecticide application.

## BBIG Membership

Membership is open to everyone who is interested in fighting against boxwood blight. You can join by sending an email to [boxwood-advocate-g+subscribe@vt.edu](mailto:boxwood-advocate-g+subscribe@vt.edu) or [chhong2@vt.edu](mailto:chhong2@vt.edu).

## Call for Submission

If you have news items to share with the BBIG community, please send to [chhong2@vt.edu](mailto:chhong2@vt.edu).

*Together we can save boxwood crops and plantings.*

