



# Monthly

## November 2023



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

### News

- Boxwood foliar disease efficacy, including blight, decline and *Volutella*, was ranked a national priority for the 2024-2025 research cycle at the IR-4 biennial priority setting workshop held in Little Rock, AR from October 10 to 12. Special thanks again to the Jay Pscheidt Team for their innovative research demonstrating fungicide drench as a promising alternative to foliar spray – significantly improving fungicide coverage while prolonging chemical control – this could be a ‘game changer’ for boxwood blight control, as presented by Bennett Saunders at the Workshop. Likewise, this will help improve disease control for other crops with compact foliage like boxwood. In addition to Bennett and Jay, several other BBIG Team members - Jerry Weiland, Fulya Baysal-Gurel, Luisa Santamaria and Chuan Hong were also in attendance to show their support of this research.
- Congratulations to Ping Kong on being recognized for her research identifying, developing and elucidating *Burkholderia* sp. SSG as a safe and powerful broad-spectrum biocontrol agent and biostimulant at the 7<sup>th</sup> Partnership in Biocontrol, Biostimulant & Microbiome Congress USA 2023 in Raleigh, NC, October 24 to 25.

### Research Presentations

- Kong, P. and Hong, C. X. 2023. *Burkholderia* sp. SSG – A powerful broad-spectrum biocontrol agent and biostimulant. 7<sup>th</sup> Partnership in Biocontrol, Biostimulant & Microbiome Congress USA 2023 in Raleigh, NC, October 24 to 25.
- Omolehin, O., Kong, P., Hemmings, G., Taylor, A., Tseng, H. T., Taylor, C., and Hong, C. X. 2023. Field performance of multiple biocontrol agents against boxwood blight in a disease hotspot of western North Carolina. 7<sup>th</sup> Partnership in Biocontrol, Biostimulant & Microbiome Congress USA 2023 in Raleigh, NC, October 24 to 25.

### Latest Extension/Outreach Presentations

- Baysal-Gurel, F. 2023. Boxwood diseases. MTSU-Plant science class. October 4.

### Online Resources

- [Boxwood Blight Knowledge Center](#).
- [Updated list of boxwood cultivars](#) resistant to both boxwood blight and leafminer.
- [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.*

