

**BOXWOOD BLIGHT ID & MANAGEMENT SHEET**  
**FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS**  
*From the Garden Club of East Hampton*

- 1) **BE VIGILANT:** Before you start any pruning job on boxwood, scout it carefully especially when temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees or when humidity levels are consistently high. Look for brown or black spots on leaves and dark streaks on twigs. Here are photos to help you:



- 2) **SEND** suspect leaves and twigs for a confirming diagnosis to one of the Cornell labs.
- 3) **USE ONLY SHEARS PROVIDED BY THE HOMEOWNER WHEN PRUNING THEIR BOXWOOD.** The fungus can travel from property to property on your shears and other equipment.
- 4) **DISINFECT SHEARS WITH 70% ETHYL OR ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL:** Treat before you start work, after pruning any branches you suspect may be diseased, and especially before moving on to healthy branches and the next boxwood plant.
- 5) **ADVISE HOMEOWNERS NOT TO BUY ANY NEW BOXWOOD IF THEY ALREADY HAVE A VALUABLE BOXWOOD COLLECTION.** The disease often arrives on new plant material, where symptoms aren't always visible at the time of purchase.
- 6) **NO OVERHEAD IRRIGATION ON BOXWOOD:** Check that lawn sprinklers and overhead irrigation don't hit the foliage of boxwood plants and adjust as needed.
- 7) **IF TESTS CONFIRM PLANTS HAVE BOXWOOD BLIGHT:** Discuss with homeowner removing the plant entirely versus pruning out infected areas and spraying. Contact a New York State Certified spray applicator to use an appropriate fungicide.
- 8) **DISPOSE OF DISEASED PLANT MATERIAL CAREFULLY:** Double bag it and take it to the *nonrecyclable* bin at the Town Dump. Do not put it in homeowner's compost pile or the Town's compost pile. Be sure to rake up any diseased leaves on the ground and dispose of these carefully as well. Apply an inch of clean mulch to the base of the plants annually.
- 9) **NO LEAF BLOWERS AROUND BOXWOOD.** Do not use leaf blowers near boxwood plants as they can spread the disease before it's detected. Please ask homeowner to share this with anyone else who works on their property and uses this tool, such as lawncare companies.