

McHort Cultural Notes for Landscapers

Buxus sp. as a hedging plant

Risk assessment: Buxus sp. are especially vulnerable to Buxus blights *Cylindrocladium buxicola* and *Volutella buxi*, *Phytophthora root rot* and insect attack, especially but not limited to, Scale. *Lepidoaphes ulmi*. Accurate identification of disease species is essential if the correct preventative treatment is to be prescribed. McHort may be able to help you diagnose problems please contact us for assistance.

There are 3 preventative strategy categories :

1. Cultural. Avoid damaging the root system or putting it under any stress. Avoid placing fast acting soluble fertilisers in close proximity to either the base of the stem or in direct contact with the roots.

Avoid planting in sites prone to water-logging.

Buxus sp. are very vigorous and require plenty of nutrients. Iron is especially important to maintain optimum leaf colour.

2. Chemical. The use of approved preventative fungicides; There are no known eradicate fungicides for Buxus blights. Regular preventative sprays will be necessary.

Applications of Dithane, active ingredient Mancozeb, and three applications a year of Vapour Guard are claimed to help reduce the effects of these blights. Root rot can be suppressed using Aliette or Fostonic applied as foliar sprays. Bravo may be useful for a range of fungal pathogen suppression but is limited to no more than two applications per year.

Scale is controlled with the pesticide Malathion 50EC.

3. Biological. For control of Scale insect a foliar spray of Plant Soap PS1 is recommended as an effective biological alternative to approved chemical insecticides. If applied in combination with TrichoSpray Nursery general leaf disease and insect suppression may be achieved simultaneously.

At planting: Use APEX 'Enrich' Topdress 21+2,1+4.9+Te . Apply at a rate of 50g/linear metre twice annually.

This should be positioned above ground adjacent to the stem of the plant in the zone wetted by the drip irrigation outlet. Apply September/October and again January/February. Apex 'Enrich' is safe, long lasting and Iron rich.

Post planting maintenance: Allow new growth to firm and harden before clipping or trimming. Aim to keep clipping or trimming activity to the absolute minimum frequency. Avoid periods of rainfall or high humidity for any clipping or trimming operations. The best time to cut is after the first flush of new seasons growth has hardened-up usually December/January

Either prior to or immediately after any trimming or clipping, apply an approved fungicide foliar application.

Keep a look out for pest infestation. Blackening of stems in the centre of established plants may be a sooty mould growing on insect, Scale, secretions and should not be confused with black stem lesions associated with stem blight.

Information, Advice, Supply

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