

## WESTCHESTER TREE LIFE, INC.

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## **HOW TO TREAT BOXWOOD BLIGHT**

All susceptible boxwood should be removed, including the roots. Infested plant debris should be removed by raking, sweeping or vacuuming, then bagged and taken to the landfill. Alternatively, debris can be buried 2' deep in soil away from landscape plantings. Do not compost diseased plant material. Be aware that removing diseased boxwood and leaf debris will not eradicate the boxwood blight fungal pathogen from the location, since the pathogen produces long-lived survival structures that can persist in the soil for 5 to 6 years.

If boxwood leaf debris has been incorporated into the soil, removing soil to a depth of 8" to 12" may help eliminate survival structures of the pathogen. Dispose of soil and leaf litter as recommended above for diseased plant material. Do not compost.

Sanitize all tools, equipment, tarps, shoes, gloves, clothing, etc., used when removing plants to prevent spread of fungal inoculum that can cause infection on healthy boxwood.

Source: *Best Practices for Boxwood Blight* [Brochure] Virginia Cooperative Extension (2016 Version 2, pages 4-5)