

MIDDLE TN NURSERY EXTENSION

nursery e-news

BOX TREE MOTH FOUND IN WV

The box tree moth (BTM) has been found for the first time in West Virginia this month. It has previously been found in Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania since the initial detection in the US in 2021. Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) larvae feed on leaves and bark of boxwoods, potentially causing complete defoliation and plant death. The lime-green caterpillars are small and difficult to detect in early stages, often blending in with foliage. Infestations may not be noticeable until significant damage has occurred. Boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) are the primary host plant but they also feed on holly (*Ilex* spp.) and burning bush (*Euonymus* spp.).

What to Look For:

- Chewed or missing leaves
- Presence of small green caterpillars
- Webbing on or inside the plant
- Bark stripping in advanced stages

If Have Suspected Sample:

Send to TN Dept. of Ag. by contacting: Anni Self, the Plant Certification Administrator, (Anni.Self@tn.gov) or your TDA nursery inspector.

Management:

If found early, infestations can be managed by treating with products containing the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk), like Dipel Pro DF. Two nematode species have been found to effectively kill BTM larvae. Products containing these entomopathogenic nematodes include: Millenium, Nematac C, Capsanem, NemaSeek, Nemasys and Larvanem. Insecticides labeled for caterpillars, such as abamectin, spinosad, chlorpyrifos, can be used; however they have not been tested on BTM larvae.



Top: older and younger (inset) caterpillar/larvae of BTM feeding on boxwood foliage and webbing (Photo: Matteo Maspero and Andrea Tantardini).

Bottom L: Feeding damage from early instar larvae (L) and mature larvae (R) of BTM (Photos: Abigail Wiesner).

Bottom R: Boxwood shrub dying from significant feeding damage from BTM larvae (Photo: Mafalda Weldon).

TSU fact sheet on BTM

Click link above
or scan QR code:



Click for NC State
Factsheet on:

Pour Thru Method

or use QR code:



EXCESS RAIN = EXTRA LEACHING

With the higher than average rainfall we've been getting, the controlled release fertilizer in your containers has likely been breaking down quicker and leaching from containers.

Use the pour-through method linked at left to find out if the fertilizer in your containers (as measured by EC) is within the adequate range for your growing plants.

For questions contact Dr. Kaitlin Barrios: kbarrios@tnstate.edu

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Thank you to everyone who came out for the NRC Field Day/Open House! We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at next year's Open House!



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Moneywise Irrigation and Fertilization Strategies for Container Nurseries

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World-class experts in nursery irrigation, nutrition, and container substrates from across the U.S. are coming to McMinnville to provide classroom and hands-on training to hone your irrigation and fertilization practices. Limited spots available. Don't miss this rare opportunity!

JULY 10, 2025

9:00AM CDT - 4:00PM CDT

TSU Nursery Research Center
472 Cadillac Lane
McMinnville, TN 37110

Learn how to:

- Measure irrigation uniformity and leaching fraction
- Optimize substrate fertility
- Evaluate substrate physical properties
- Manage root heat stress



Registration: \$45 & includes lunch

Contact Dr. Jake Shreckhise

Jacob.Shreckhise@usda.gov or Dr. Amy Fulcher
afulcher@utk.edu with questions.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

- If you would like to share about your nursery for a TSU Extension podcast, we would love to hear from you!
- We want to promote and share the history, mission and stories of middle TN's nurseries for anyone to hear and enjoy
- Please contact Dr. Kaitlin Barrios, if you are interested: kbarrios@tnstate.edu or 931-259-4824 (office)

TSU's Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center



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