



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Office of Plant Industry Services

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Jewel H. Bronaugh, Ph.D
Commissioner

Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program Compliance Agreement for Production Nurseries

Agreement _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: VA Zip: _____

Nursery Location(s): _____

INTRODUCTION:

_____ has been monitored by the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) for participation in the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program since _____ and is found to be apparently free from Boxwood Blight. The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services hereby approves the continued participation by _____ in the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program.

Boxwood Blight is caused by the fungus *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* (*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*, *Cylindrocladium buxicola*). *Buxus spp.*, *Sarcococca spp.* and *Pachysandra terminalis* are known hosts of Boxwood Blight. The participant agrees to grow species and cultivars of Boxwood Blight host plants according to best management practices designed to prevent the introduction and minimize the risk of spreading Boxwood Blight. This agreement does not preclude the inspection, sampling, and testing of plants by the destination State Department of Agriculture or similar authority and rejection as a result of any positive finds.

To meet the requirements of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program, the participant agrees to the following:

A. EXCLUSION OF THE PATHOGEN

1. Utilize suppliers or nurseries that have been officially inspected by their state plant regulatory agency and found to be apparently free from boxwood blight or that hold a “Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program Compliance Agreement”.
2. Inspect incoming host plants and/or cuttings (*Buxus*, *Pachysandra*, *Sarcococca*) at the time of delivery. If the host material is symptomatic, contact VDACS, Office of Plant Industry Services at (804) 786-3515.
3. Newly received host plants or rooted cuttings shall be isolated by a minimum of 3 meters (approximately 10 feet) from existing host plants in the nursery for **at least 45 days**. Plants can be isolated by a physical barrier or by other isolation method approved by VDACS.
 - a. Keep newly received host plants obtained from different vendors separated.
 - b. Newly received plant stock must be stored on a surface such as concrete or landscape fabric that can be cleaned of plant debris between rotations. All plant debris must be removed between rotations or after pruning.
 - c. No fungicides active against *Cylindrocladium* sp. shall be applied during the **45 days** isolation/holding period.
 - d. Newly received stock must be stored on a surface that is drained to prevent water run-off into potting media and other host production areas.
4. Returned host plants are to be treated as newly received host plants (see 3. above).
5. Unload plants in a designated area on a hard surface that can be cleaned after each shipment. Clean up all plant material and soil debris after each incoming shipment. Do not allow vehicles for pick up or drop off to enter production areas of nursery unless they are washed thoroughly before entry.

B. WATER MANAGEMENT

1. Avoid overhead watering when practical and conduct watering so as to minimize leaf wetness period.
2. Manage water run-off such that it does not flow from one host plant production area into another.
3. Minimize standing water in host plant blocks.

C. SANITATION

1. Host plant production areas shall be inspected regularly for the accumulation of host plant debris. Minimize host plant debris by regular cleaning of the substrate and pot surfaces. Host plants or host plant debris shall not be used in compost.
2. Sanitize tools and equipment between blocks/lots of host plant material with an effective disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with 5.25% NaOCl (1:9 solution) or 8.25% NaCl(1:14 solution)). Lysol products are appropriate if their active ingredient is Clorox or ammonia based.
3. After every crop production cycle, remove all crop debris and disinfect propagation mist beds, cutting benches, machines, and tools, using an appropriately labeled disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with 5.25% NaOCl (1:9 solution) or 8.25% NaCl(1:14 solution)).
4. Current list of sanitizers can be found on Virginia’s Boxwood Blight Task force web page at <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/boxwood-blight.html>

5. Use new or sanitized pots/flats that have been thoroughly cleaned of soil and plant debris for host plant production. Do not reuse potting mix previously used in host plant production unless the used potting media has been sterilized.
6. VDACS inspectors will follow the sanitation procedures outlined in this document. They will insure their footwear, clothes, and equipment are clean and sanitized. They will park in a designated area or wash and disinfect their vehicle before entering production areas, they will only visit one nursery that grows boxwood a day and they will follow the rules of the nursery for visitors.

D. INSPECTION

1. Inspect all host plants in the isolation area on a weekly basis and other host plants monthly throughout the growing season by trained personnel. Host plants include *Buxus*, *Pachysandra* and *Sarcococca*.
 - a. If boxwood blight symptoms are detected they must be reported immediately to the VDACS nursery inspector to have the disease identified.
 - b. No symptomatic host plants shall be sold until they have been examined and cleared by VDACS.
2. The nursery shall allow VDACS access to conduct inspections and, if necessary, collect samples to test for the presence of Boxwood Blight. VDACS inspections will be conducted at a minimum of four times per year for greenhouses or hoop houses and a minimum of 3 times a year for field grown material.

E. TRAINING

1. The participant shall educate and train appropriate personnel on the following:
 - a. Recognizing basic signs and symptoms of Boxwood Blight.
 - b. Proper sanitation practices to meet the intent of this compliance agreement.
 - c. The stipulations of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program compliance agreement.
2. VDACS, Office of Plant Industry Services can provide training and/or materials for appropriate personnel.

F. RECORD KEEPING/TRACEABILITY

1. Records must be maintained for a minimum of 12 months and shall be made available upon request for verification. Records of host plants shall include the following:
 - a. Incoming host plants including quantity and source(s)
 - b. Location of isolation area(s) for incoming host plants
 - c. Shipping records (dates, quantity, plants shipped, destinations)
 - d. Fungicide applications
 - e. Inspection Records
 - f. Personnel training (dates, attendees, subject matter, trainer)
2. The participant shall allow VDACS to audit all necessary records and protocols to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. Interviews of employees may also be conducted to ensure compliance with training requirements.

This Agreement becomes effective when signed and will remain in effect for one year unless rescinded for non-compliance, but may be revised as necessary. In the event of the detection of Boxwood Blight at this location, this agreement shall be voided or suspended until remedial action can be taken to the satisfaction of VDACS.

VDACS shall provide an official written statement that attests to the following: **“Lancaster Farms Wholesale Nursery has been inspected and found to be apparently free of Boxwood Blight, *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*. The responsible party has agreed to the stipulations of a compliance agreement designed to prevent the introduction and minimize the risk of spreading Boxwood Blight.”**

I, _____ the undersigned, agree to handle, pack, process, and move host plants of boxwood blight in accordance with all applicable best management practices, nursery laws and regulations; use all permits and certificates in accordance with instructions; maintain and offer for inspection such records as may be required; and abide by the above listed stipulations. The affixing of the signatures below will validate this agreement.

Name (Please Print)

Date

Signature

Title

David Gianino

VDACS Official

Agreement Number

Signature

Date

Effective Date

Expiration Date