



Boxwood Blight, a Severe Disease of Boxwood in the Willamette Valley

Gabriel Sacher and Jerry Weiland



Gabriel Sacher, OSU graduate student



Leaf spots caused by boxwood blight

Oregon's \$25 million boxwood industry is threatened by an introduced fungus: *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*. This fungus causes the serious disease, boxwood blight.

First found in 2 Oregon nurseries in 2011, the disease was thought to have limited impact. However, in 2020 Gabe published results from an ongoing survey showing that the disease was confirmed in 12 nurseries in the Willamette Valley with some production blocks reaching 100% infection. While boxwood blight was sometimes severe and widespread, in many cases infections were mild and difficult to detect. Gabe is now investigating how Oregon's environmental conditions affect disease development. In a recent experiment, few plants inoculated this fall and winter became infected and symptoms were mild.

Our survey results indicate that boxwood blight is more widespread in Oregon than reported in 2011. Growers should inspect all incoming boxwood plants and quarantine them away from existing boxwood production areas to limit the chances of introducing boxwood blight into their nursery. Good scouting practices are essential in managing this disease.

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To participate in the boxwood blight survey, please contact Jerry Weiland at jerry.weiland@usda.gov or (541) 738-4062.
<https://www.weilandlab.com/>



Black stem lesions caused by boxwood blight



Boxwood blight in a flat of cuttings

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