

Boxwood Dieback

Colletotrichum theobromicola



Figure 1. This random dieback of twigs with light tan-colored foliage is caused by boxwood dieback.



Figure 2. The roots and crowns of boxwood plants infected by *Colletotrichum theobromicola* appear healthy.

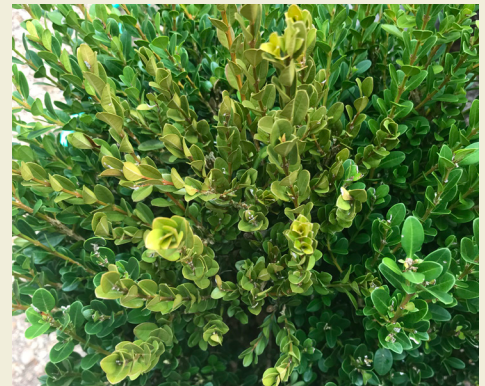


Figure 3. A Baby Gem boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*) infected with boxwood dieback caused by *Colletotrichum theobromicola* exhibits early symptoms of light green foliage in the middle of the canopy.



Figure 4. Acervuli (fruiting bodies, at yellow arrows) of *Colletotrichum theobromicola* erupting through the epidermis of an infected boxwood stem.



Figure 5. This bright black discoloration of the upper part of the boxwood stem under the bark is caused by *Colletotrichum theobromicola*.



Figure 6. This bright black discoloration of the lower part of the boxwood stem under the bark is caused by *Colletotrichum theobromicola*.



Figure 7. Bright-black discoloration under the bark of the same boxwood stem as shown in Figure 4 caused by *Colletotrichum theobromicola*.



Figure 8. A cross section of a symptomatic boxwood twig infected with boxwood dieback shows discoloration extending to the center of the woody tissue.



Figure 9. This boxwood leaf lesion is caused by *Colletotrichum theobromicola*.

Boxwood Dieback Look-Alike



Figure 10. These are foliar symptoms of boxwood plants infected with *Phytophthora* root rot.



Figure 12. This boxwood is infected with *Macrophoma* blight.



Figure 13. This boxwood is infected with *Volutella* blight.



Figure 14. These foliar symptoms are caused by high temperature in a greenhouse.



Figure 11. Boxwood blight is caused by *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*. Photo by V. L. Smith, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.



Figure 15. These foliar symptoms are caused by cold injury. Photo by Mary Ann Hansen, Virginia Tech.



Figure 16. These foliar symptoms are caused by herbicide injury.

Author and photo credits: Raj Singh, Associate Professor and Director, Plant Diagnostic Center, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology

Luke Laborde, Interim LSU Vice President for Agriculture
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
LSU College of Agriculture

PUB3824A (500) 10/21

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.