Susceptibility of Commercial Boxwood Varieties to *Cylindrocladium buxicola*

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Susceptibility to box blight (*Cylindrocladium buxicola* = *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) was evaluated for twenty three varieties of boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, NC during summer 2012. Disease assessments were performed based on a modified Horsfall-Barratt scale including percent leaf area diseased and percent stem streaking. The results shown below are based on the final disease assessment. Our results indicate a wide range in susceptibility of *Buxus* spp. to the boxwood blight pathogen; however *B. sempervirens* types were more susceptible in general (a 2011 publication reported 'Justin Brouwers' to actually fall within the *B. sempervirens* cluster). The varieties listed as tolerant had minimal lesion development caused by *C. buxicola*. It is important to note that some boxwood varieties are limited in their optimal plant hardiness zones; make sure to look up specific growing requirements for each variety before recommending them in your area.