



WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT BTM?

We ask the public to allow state and federal agricultural officials access to your property for inspections if you have boxwoods, so that they can place traps on or near your property. If you live outside Niagara County and find any signs of infestation, please take a picture and report it online at the web page below.

agriculture.ny.gov/reportBTM

If you live inside Niagara County, you don't need to report your findings. We encourage you to keep checking your boxwoods regularly for this pest. If you find a BTM infestation within Niagara County, remove infected branches by pruning them with a thinning cut. Then, dispose of material by double-bagging it in plastic bags and putting it out with your household trash. Dead, diseased, or damaged plant parts can be pruned out at any time of the year.

You can also contact your local Cooperative Extension office for treatment options at: cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension/local-offices.



HOW IS THE STATE RESPONDING?

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) started surveying high risk areas in Niagara County for BTM after the initial findings in 2021. Since the initial detection, AGM continues to survey and trap for BTM. We request that residents and the horticulture industry also look for, take pictures of, and report any signs of infestation.

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets | Division of Plant Industry
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BOX TREE MOTH REGULATION IN NEW YORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Agriculture and Markets



WHAT IS BOX TREE MOTH? (BTM)

Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) is an invasive pest native to East Asia. After being introduced to Europe in 2007, it quickly spread across the continent. It was first detected in North America in 2018 in Ontario, Canada, and later confirmed in Niagara County, New York in 2021. It is believed that the moths flew or were blown into Niagara County.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF BTM?

BTM feeding can damage and potentially kill boxwoods, which are an important part of the United States nursery industry, with annual wholesale and retail sales estimated at \$140 million. After destroying boxwoods, its primary host, BTM will also feed on Euonymus (*Euonymus* spp.), and holly (*Ilex* spp.).

WHAT ARE THE REGULATIONS?

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) use quarantines to prevent the spread of invasive species into new areas. Regulated articles include the whole plant, all plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead. Visit AGM's BTM webpage for the latest information on quarantines and regulated articles: <https://on.ny.gov/3jLB2aF>



WHAT DOES BTM DAMAGE LOOK LIKE?

BTM caterpillars feed primarily on boxwoods (*Buxus* spp.) and will defoliate host plants, causing serious plant decline and death when infestations are heavy. Signs of BTM damage can include chewed leaves, green-black frass (excrement) and unsightly webbing/silk threads on the host plant. These signs are typically much easier to spot than any life stage of BTM. BTM larvae have also been observed moving onto bark feeding after the host plants' leaves are gone, causing girdling (removal of bark completely around the stem) and plant death. BTM adults are rarely seen because they are most active at night. There are two adult morphs, the more common one displaying white wings outlined in brown and the less common morph displaying brown wings.

