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**Oregon State**

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## Mites



Photo: Karl Puls, ODA

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### Boxwood spider mite

The boxwood spider mite, *Eurytetranychus buxi*, becomes active in late April, early May in Oregon. The mites overwinter in the egg stage.

**Description:**  
 These mites are generally tan, sometimes reddish-colored, with two large dark patches on either side of their body. They are slightly smaller than two-spotted spider mites. Adult **females** are round and robust compared to the smaller, wedge-shaped **males** which often project two pair of legs forward and two pair of legs backward. **Eggs** are yellowish-orange and generally found on the underside of the leaves.

**Damage**  
 Boxwood spider mite feeding causes **fleck-like scratches** on the upper leaf surface. Generally there is no webbing associated with this mite.

**Monitoring:**  
 Look for yellowing and flecking on leaves. Closer inspection, particularly under the leaves, may reveal spider mites, cast skins, or eggs.

### GALLERY

Boxwood spider mite damage on *B. sempervirens*



Photo: Karl Puls, Oregon Department of Agriculture

## Management

**Cultural control:** Japanese boxwood is reputed to be less susceptible.

**Biological control:** In Maryland, researchers assessing abundance of natural enemies on landscape plants found 20 taxa of beneficial arthropods on boxwood including green lacewings, lady beetles, harvestmen, and spiders (Stewart et al. 2002). Spiders were the most abundant predator (70.6% of all predators). Mites reared on imidacloprid-treated boxwood was extremely toxic to two predators, *Chrysoperla rufilabris* and *Stethorus punctillum* (Creary, 2009).

**Chemical control:** Dormant oils, particularly aimed at the underside of the leaves, target overwintering mites. Light summer oils and insecticidal soaps are low toxicity materials that may be applied to manage these mites. Good contact is necessary. One trial in Belgium evaluating control of boxwood spider mite eggs showed that all acaricides they evaluated (the list included acaricides with EPA registrations including: clofentezine, fenbutatin oxide, hexythiazox, and pyridaben) controlled 50- 100% of developing winter eggs when applied in April. A mixed population of winter and summer eggs was most effectively controlled with hexythiazox followed by clofentozine (Hellmans and Goossens, 2000). Boxwood plants treated with imidacloprid has been linked to increased fecundity of boxwood spider mite on those treated plants (Szczepaniec and Raupp, 2013). Check the PNW Insect Management Handbook for additional [chemical control options](#).

## References

- Creary, S. 2009. [Indirect effects of imidacloprid on natural enemies of spider mites in two systems](#). University of Maryland. Master's Thesis.
- Hellmans, A. and F. Goossens. 2000. Control of box spider mite (*Eurytetranychus buxi*). *Verbondsnieuws* 2000 Vol. 44 No. 15 pp. 27-29.
- Steward, C., K. Braman, and B. Sparks. 2002. [Abundance of beneficial arthropods on woody landscape plants at professionally-managed landscape sites](#). *J. Environ. Hort.* 20(2):67-72. June 2002
- Szczepaniec, R. and M. Raupp. 2013. Direct and indirect effects of imidacloprid on fecundity and abundance of *Eurytetranychus buxi* (Acari: Tetranychidae) on boxwoods. *Exp. App. Acar.* March 2013. Vol 59 (3) pp307-318.

## Boxwood spider mite damage

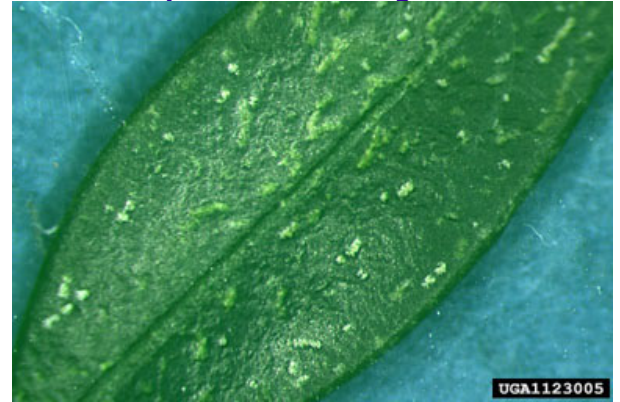
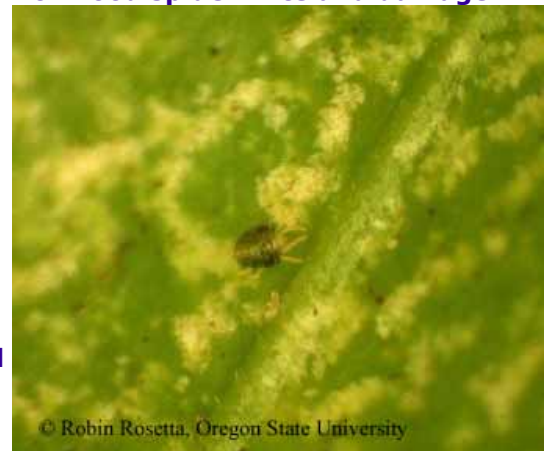


Photo: Rayanne Lehman, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, United States

## Boxwood spider mite damage



## Boxwood spider mite and damage



Useful links.

Russel, H. 2013. [Boxwood Insect Pests](#)  
Michigan State University Extension

[Boxwood spider mite](#). North Carolina State  
University.

[Boxwood Spider mite](#). Pests of Trees and  
Shrubs. IPM in Mid-West Landscapes.

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**Boxwood spider mite**



**Boxwood spider mite adult and nymph**



**Male and female boxwood spider**



**Male boxwood spider mite**



### Boxwood spider mite and eggs



Photo: Rayanne Lehman, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, United States

### Boxwood spider mite eggs



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