

Quick Guide - Boxwood

Where to plant:

- Boxwood is tolerant of a wide range of soil types but prefers to be grown in a less acidic soil.
- Can be planted in sun or shade. Best suited for partial Shade, especially in the afternoon (see winter damage). Avoid areas with too much shade and little air movement as it can make plants more susceptible to pests and diseases.
- Soil should be fertile, so add organic matter, such as well-rotted manure or garden compost if you have infertile soil. This will also help hold moisture in the soil and improve its structure.

Watering:

- Reliably moist soil is especially important when grown in full sun, otherwise the foliage may scorch, Boxwoods have shallow roots.
- Boxwood is drought tolerant once established.
- Initial watering at the time of planting is very important.
- For the first 18 months after planting, monitor moisture and irrigate as needed.
- Irrigate established boxwood only during extreme droughts.
- Drip irrigation is best on any plantings. Avoid systems that repeatedly wet foliage.
- Over-watering causes problems. Never let the soil become waterlogged.

Fertilizing:

- lime if the pH drops below 5.5.
- Avoid summer and early fall fertilization to prevent frost or freeze damage (best time is before July)
- ALWAYS test your soil before adding fertilizer. NEVER OVER fertilize!!
- Use soil tests to maintain a pH of 6.5-7.0. Apply a general-purpose fertilizer such as Bio~Tone when planting and 'Top Buxus' for more established plants (f.e. Turbo Grow 13-3-13 and a Restore and Protect 8-0-10). Please see our Staff at the Garden Shop Info desk for further information.

Pruning:

- Boxwoods are best trimmed into shape during the summer, once new shoots have hardened off and growth has slowed. This will help to minimise leaf damage due to weather conditions or disease, and the hedge or topiary should remain neat through the winter.
- Pruning is best done in cloudy weather to reduce leaf burn.
- Best trimmed with hedge shears, always ensure your tools are as sharp as possible.

Winter Care:

- Dry winter winds can lead to discoloration and the leaves will take on a bronze tone.
- Boxwood planted in full sun and windy locations are more susceptible.
- As long as the ground is not frozen keep watering your boxwoods (and other evergreens)
- Easily damaged by heavy snow and ice. If plants are positioned beneath roof ledges or other areas where heavy deposits of snow are expected, it can be helpful to wrap large boxwoods, especially tall, upright varieties.
- Boxwoods are also sensitive to damage from salt used to melt ice on roads or pathways.