

PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS

BOXWOOD LEAF MINER

Boxwood Leafminer widely distributed throughout the United States. Here in the Atlanta Metro Area the Leafminer causes serious damage to boxwoods in the spring season.

**Plants Attacked**

Both Littleleaf Boxwood *Buxus microphylla*, and Common Boxwood *Buxus sempervivens* are commonly attacked, but there are resistant varieties that can be planted.

**Insect Identification**

The eggs of the boxwood leafminers are white to transparent and can be seen by holding the leaf up to the light. The larvae are yellowish-white and approximately 1/8 inch long. The adult boxwood leafminer is delicate, orange-yellow to red, gnat-like fly.

**Damage Symptoms**

The larval feeding between the upper and lower leaves causes blistering and often discoloration with heavily damaged plants become unattractive in appearance.



Boxwood Leafminer larvae



Close-up of Boxwood Leafminer larvae



Yellow blisters from early larval feeding



Raised areas caused by larval feeding

**Management Options**

- Cultural** Selection of the more resistant varieties.
- Biological** Unfortunately, there are few known natural enemies of the Boxwood Leafminer.
- Mechanical** Pruning the foliage before adult emergence or after egg laying ends will reduce the overall population.
- Chemical** One of our trained Plant Health Care Technicians will apply an insecticide when the larvae are active or apply a soil drench of insecticide in the winter/early spring.