

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2021-11
May 26, 2021

Subject: APHIS Amends Entry Requirements for Importation of Boxwood, Euonymus, and Holly from Canada into the United States

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending entry requirements for the importation of boxwood (*Buxus* spp.), Euonymus (*Euonymus* spp.), and holly (*Ilex* spp.) plants for planting from Canada to prevent introduction of box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) into the United States. APHIS is taking this action in response to the detection of the pest at a nursery in St. Catharines, Ontario. APHIS considers propagative hosts a high-risk pathway for the introduction of box tree moth.

Box tree moth is a serious pest of boxwood, Euonymus, holly, and curry leaf tree (*Murraya* spp.) species, which are pathways for entry of the box tree moth into the United States. Box tree moth symptoms include green-black frass and silk threads on the host plant. Larvae feeding on leaves and bark can lead to the death of the plants.

Currently, the importation of all propagative plant material, except seeds, of certain hosts of box tree moth are Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA). Boxwood is NAPPRA from all countries except Canada. Holly is NAPPRA from all countries except Canada and the Netherlands. Euonymus is NAPPRA from Europe and must be subjected to post-entry quarantine requirements from all other countries except Canada and Japan. Curry leaf tree is NAPPRA from all countries. Prior to this Federal Order, shipments from Canada were required to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and an additional declaration stating the shipment has been officially inspected and found to be free of box tree moth or produced in a facility or area officially recognized by Canadian Food Inspection Agency as free of box tree moth as per Federal Order DA 2020-07.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Narasimha Chary Samboju, at 301-851-2038 or narasimha.c.samboju@usda.gov.



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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

Federal Order

APHIS amends import requirements of *Buxus* spp., *Euonymus* spp., and *Ilex* spp. plants for planting from Canada

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Effective immediately, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending entry requirements for importation of boxwood (*Buxus* spp.), *Euonymus* (*Euonymus* spp.), and holly (*Ilex* spp.), plants for planting from Canada to prevent introduction of box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*).

Box tree moth is a serious pest of boxwood, *Euonymus*, holly, and curry leaf tree (*Murraya* spp.), and these hosts are a pathway for entry of this pest into the United States. Box tree moth symptoms include green-black frass and silk threads on the host plant. Larvae feeding on leaves causes defoliation and mortality. Bark feeding by larvae results in desiccation and death of plants.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) first detected box tree moth at two sites in Toronto, (Ontario), Canada in August 2018. In November 2018, CFIA confirmed the presence of this pest in an urban neighborhood in Toronto and posted an official pest report in The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Phytosanitary Alert System in February 2019. This was the first confirmed report of this pest in North America. Most recently, on April 30, 2021, CFIA provided information on the detection of the pest at a nursery in St. Catharines, Ontario. CFIA subsequently indicated the pest may be present in the surrounding environment.

This Federal Order replaces DA 2020-07 and prohibits the importation of *Buxus* spp., *Euonymus* spp., and *Ilex* spp. from Canada into the United States and territories. *Buxus* spp., *Euonymus* spp., *Ilex* spp., plants for planting shipments imported from Canada will be refused entry.

This action is necessary because APHIS has determined that the introduction and establishment of the box tree moth poses a serious threat to agriculture in the United States.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). Under the Act, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

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