

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2023-24
December 19, 2023

Subject: APHIS Amends Import Requirements for *Buxus* spp., *Euonymus* spp., and *Ilex* spp. from Canada into the United States and territories

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective December 19, 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending entry requirements for the importation of certain plants for planting from Canada to prevent introduction of box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*, BTM) into the United States. APHIS is taking this action in response to the detection of BTM at a nursery in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, and subsequent detections in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. APHIS considers propagative hosts a high-risk pathway for the introduction of BTM.

Box tree moth is a serious pest of boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) and curry leaf tree (*Murraya* spp.) species, which are pathways for entry of the pest into the United States. BTM 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 affected plants.

Currently, the importation of all propagative plant material, except seeds, of certain hosts of BTM are considered by APHIS "Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA)". Boxwood is currently considered NAPPRA from all countries except Canada. *Euonymus* is NAPPRA from Europe and is subject to post-entry quarantine import requirements from all other countries except Canada. Curry leaf tree is NAPPRA from all countries. Shipments of *Buxus*, *Euonymus*, and *Ilex* plants for planting from Canada were initially prohibited by Federal Order DA-2021-11. However, APHIS conducted a non-*Buxus* host range assessment for BTM, which concluded *Ilex* spp. are not hosts and identified conflicting reports of *Euonymus alatus* and *E. japonicus* being hosts.

APHIS is amending Federal Order DA-2021-11 based on the following updated information:

- CFIA's pest risk management decision to add BTM to their regulated pest list and to establish the Province of Ontario as a regulated area;
- Additional BTM detections outside of the CFIA BTM regulated area;
- Official survey data provided by CFIA for the province of British Columbia;
- APHIS' BTM non-*Buxus* host assessment, which concluded that *Euonymus* spp. and *Ilex* spp. are unlikely to be pathways for spread.

This Federal Order supersedes DA-2021-11 and modifies the entry requirements for *Buxus* spp. plants for planting imported from Canada into the United States and its territories. APHIS is removing restrictions for BTM on *Euonymus* spp. and *Ilex* spp. In addition, consistent with the

requirements of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 4, APHIS recognizes the province of British Columbia as a pest-free area for BTM. Importation of *Buxus* spp. plants produced in an area not certified by the Canada Food Inspection Agency as a pest free area remain prohibited. *Buxus* plants produced in the Canadian Nursery Certification Program or Greenhouse Certification Program are also ineligible for US importation unless the facilities are located in a pest-free area.

To prevent the introduction of BTM into the United States and territories, APHIS requires that *Buxus* spp. plants for planting produced in Canada be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating “The *Buxus* plants have been produced in a pest-free area for *Cydalima perspectalis*.”

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark L Davidson', is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Mark L Davidson
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

APHIS amends import requirements for *Buxus* spp., *Euonymus* spp., and *Ilex* spp. plants for planting from Canada into the United States and territories

DA-2023-24
December 19, 2023

Effective December 19, 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending entry requirements for importation of certain plants for planting from Canada to prevent the introduction of box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) into the United States and territories.

Box tree moth (BTM) is a serious pest of boxwood and curry leaf tree (*Murraya* spp.), and these hosts are a pathway for entry of this pest into the United States and territories. 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.

In August 2018, the National Plant Protection Organization of Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), first detected BTM at two sites in Toronto, Ontario. In November 2018, CFIA confirmed the presence of this pest in an urban neighborhood in Toronto, and, in February 2019, posted an official pest report for BTM in the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Phytosanitary Alert System. This was the first confirmed report of this pest in North America. On April 2021, CFIA provided information on the detection of the pest at a nursery in St. Catharines, Ontario, which had previously shipped plants to the United States. In May 2021, APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2021-11 to prevent the introduction and establishment of BTM in the United States. On August 23, 2023, CFIA reported the detection of this pest in Laval, Quebec, and has since reported additional detections in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

This Federal Order supersedes DA-2021-11 and modifies the entry requirements for *Buxus* spp. plants for planting imported from Canada into the United States and territories.

APHIS will allow importation of *Buxus* spp. plants for planting from approved pest free areas in Canada. Shipments of *Buxus* spp. imported from Canada must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration (AD) certifying that the plants in the shipment fulfill the following requirements prior to importation into the United States and territories: “The *Buxus* plants have been produced in a pest-free area for *Cydalima perspectalis*.”

The importation of *Buxus* spp. plants produced in an area not certified by CFIA as a pest-free area is prohibited. *Buxus* spp. plants produced under the Canadian Nursery Certification and Greenhouse Certification Program are also ineligible for importation unless the facility is located in a pest free area.

This action is necessary because APHIS has determined that the introduction and establishment of the BTM 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.

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.