

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2026-11
March 31, 2026

Subject: APHIS Establishes a Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) Quarantine in Virginia
To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), is adding Clarke County, Frederick County, and the Independent City of Winchester in Virginia to the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*; BTM) quarantined areas. This Federal quarantine mirrors the intrastate quarantine that VDACS established on December 3, 2025.

APHIS is taking this action in response to confirmed BTM detections in Clarke County on July 15, 2025, in Frederick County on August 17, 2025, and in the Independent City of Winchester on September 11, 2025. This Federal Order supersedes Federal Order [DA-2025-52](#).

To prevent the spread of BTM, APHIS considers it necessary to regulate the interstate movement of regulated articles of boxwood from quarantined areas. Establishments may only move boxwood plants interstate from quarantined areas if the establishment is operating under a compliance agreement, and only if the shipment is accompanied by a state-issued certificate certifying that the establishment has met the requirements of this Federal Order and their compliance agreement. These requirements facilitate the safe interstate movement of boxwood plants by producers and distributors. State agricultural authorities may prescribe additional safeguards and protocols.

APHIS prohibits movement of all other regulated articles of boxwood, including plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes.

The [APHIS BTM webpage](#) has the attached Federal Order and additional information on this pest.

For additional information you may contact:

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Attachment: Federal Order

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

Federal Order

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This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [7 U.S.C. 7701 through 7786](#). Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act ([7 U.S.C. 7712\(a\)](#)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest 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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APHIS prohibits the movement of all other regulated articles of boxwood, including plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes.

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A. Quarantined Areas

The Administrator may designate a whole state or an area less than an entire state if the Administrator determines, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire state is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of BTM. In addition, the Administrator may quarantine less than an entire state if it is determined that the affected state enforces equivalent restrictions and regulations for intrastate movement that effectively mitigate the spread of the pest.

APHIS designates the following as quarantined areas for BTM:

Delaware: The entire State.

Massachusetts: The entire State.

Michigan: All of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties.

New York: All of Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Cortland, Erie, Franklin, Genesee, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins, Saint Lawrence, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties.

Ohio: All of Butler, Clermont, Greene, Hamilton, Miami, Montgomery, and Warren Counties.

Pennsylvania: All of Erie County.

Virginia: All of Clarke County, Frederick County, and the Independent City of Winchester.

West Virginia: The entire State.

B. Regulated Articles

Regulated articles include the whole plant, all plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes.

C. Conditions for Movement of Regulated Articles

No person may move regulated articles interstate from any quarantined areas except in accordance with this Federal Order.

Establishments may only move boxwood plants interstate from quarantined areas if the establishment is operating under a compliance agreement, and only if the shipment is accompanied by a state-issued certificate certifying that the establishment has met the requirements of this Federal Order and their compliance agreement.

APHIS prohibits the movement of all other regulated articles of boxwood, including plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes.

D. Definitions

Administrator. The Administrator of APHIS, or any person authorized to act for the Administrator.

Certificate. A document, stamp, or other means of identification issued by an inspector or person operating under a compliance agreement when he or she finds that, because of certain conditions, a regulated article can be moved safely from an area quarantined for BTM, without spreading the pest.

Compliance Agreement. A written agreement between the state agriculture authority and a person engaged in the business of growing, maintaining, processing, handling, packing, or moving regulated articles for interstate movement, in which the person agrees to comply with specific requirements.

Inspector. An individual authorized to determine the eligibility of plants for interstate movement.

Interstate. From any state into or through any other state.

Quarantined Area. Any state, or any portion of a state, listed in this Federal Order.

Regulated Article. *Buxus* spp., commonly called boxwood. The whole plant, all plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes.

State Agriculture Authority. A state agency that regulates agriculture, natural resources, and related issues.

Overview of Federal Order DA-2026-11

APHIS Establishes Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) Quarantines in Virginia

1. What does this document do?

This Federal Order adds Clarke County, Frederick County, and the Independent City of Winchester in Virginia to the list of box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*; BTM) quarantined areas. APHIS is taking this action in response to confirmed BTM detections in Clarke County on July 15, 2025, Frederick County on August 17, 2025, and the Independent City of Winchester on September 11, 2025. Winchester City is a distinct jurisdiction within Frederick County. This Federal Order updates the quarantine areas in Federal Order [DA-2025-52](#) and supersedes that Federal Order.

2. Why is it necessary/important?

APHIS considers it necessary to prevent the spread of BTM to protect the U.S. boxwood industry. BTM feeding is destructive to boxwoods and threatens approximately \$140 million in annual domestic trade. Boxwood is also important to many historical settings. APHIS has previously established quarantined areas in Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

3. Communication with stakeholders?

APHIS is implementing this Federal Order in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). This Federal quarantine mirrors the intrastate quarantine that VDACS established on December 3, 2025.

This Federal Order does not impact any Tribal Lands.

In addition, APHIS will send out a Stakeholder Registry announcement following the issuance of the Federal Order. APHIS will inform the National Plant Board and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, via email, that a Federal Order has been issued.

4. Controversy? Who will be upset? What have we done to ameliorate the issue?

APHIS does not expect any controversy with the issuance of this Federal Order. Although this Federal Order will impact growers and producers within the state, APHIS has not changed the requirements for movement of boxwood from quarantined areas since the issuance of the previous Federal Order, [DA-2025-52](#), which allows establishments operating under a compliance agreement to move boxwood. If the state agricultural authority determines a shipment is free of all BTM life stages after inspection, they will provide a certificate to the grower. These requirements facilitate the safe interstate movement of boxwoods by producers and distributors. APHIS prohibits movement of other regulated articles of boxwood, including plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes. APHIS and the National Plant Board members have communicated these requirements to the nursery industry and APHIS does not expect controversy.