

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2026-24
August 4, 2026

Subject: APHIS Establishes a Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) Quarantine in Maryland and Pennsylvania

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), is adding Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties in Maryland, and Franklin County in Pennsylvania to the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*; BTM) quarantined areas. This Federal quarantine mirrors the intrastate quarantines that MDA established on March 6, 2026, and PDA established on May 6, 2026. APHIS is taking this action in response to confirmed BTM detections in Washington County, Maryland on July 10, 2025, and in Franklin County, Pennsylvania on July 28, 2025. This Federal Order supersedes Federal Order DA-2026-23.

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.

For future changes to the BTM quarantined areas, APHIS will publish a description of the BTM quarantine area expansion on the [APHIS BTM webpage](#) and notify State, Territory, and Tribal Plant Regulatory Officials. This site has the attached Federal Order and additional information on this pest.

For additional information you may contact:

Devon Gaydos
National Policy Manager
240-457-0297
devon.gaydos@usda.gov



Matthew A. Rhoads
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

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

Federal Order

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Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), is adding Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties in Maryland, and Franklin County in Pennsylvania to the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*; BTM) quarantined areas. This Federal quarantine mirrors the intrastate quarantines that MDA established on March 6, 2026, and PDA established on May 6, 2026.

APHIS is taking this action in response to confirmed BTM detections in Washington County, Maryland on July 10, 2025, and in Franklin County, Pennsylvania on July 28, 2025. This Federal Order supersedes Federal Order DA-2026-23.

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.

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 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.

For future changes to the BTM quarantined areas, APHIS will publish a description of the BTM quarantine area expansion on the [APHIS BTM webpage](#) and notify State, Territory, and Tribal Plant

Regulatory Officials. This webpage has the attached Federal Order and additional information on this pest.

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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.

The Administrator will publish a description of all BTM quarantined areas on the [APHIS BTM webpage](#). After a change is made to the quarantined areas, the Administrator will immediately notify State, Territory, and Tribal Plant Regulatory Officials and describe the changes.

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.