

# Boxwood

*Buxus sempervirens*

## QUICK FACTS

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USDA ZONES

**5–9**

SUNLIGHT

**Part Shade**

BLOOM

**Spring**

HEIGHT

**3–6 ft**

DEER

**Resistant**

## AT A GLANCE

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Boxwood blight is a real and serious threat to boxwood plantings in the eastern United States. It is not a matter of if but when, in most humid climates. Before investing in boxwood, understand the disease, choose resistant species (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica* is more resistant than *B. sempervirens*), or consider resistant alternatives like inkberry, compact Japanese holly, or dwarf false cypress. For existing plantings, the sanitation protocols are well-documented and effective if followed rigorously.

## PLANTING CHECKLIST

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- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

## FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/boxwood-care/>