

BOXWOOD BLIGHT

An Emerging Disease that Keeps
Landscapers and Gardeners
Awake at Night

By Chuan Hong, Ph.D.
Virginia Tech

Spread by animals, rain, clinging to clothes, and by contaminated pruning tools.



Stop Spreading through Sanitation

Sanitizing Tools Regularly



Automated Sanitizer Delivery



https://felco.com/en_us/felco-19



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Boxwood blight pathogens are sticky, easily attaching to pruners, other garden tools, and personal belongings, and spreading from isolated infections to the entire property and from one property to all other properties.

Boxwood Blight Epidemiology

Highly Weather Dependent

► Infection (& Sporulation)

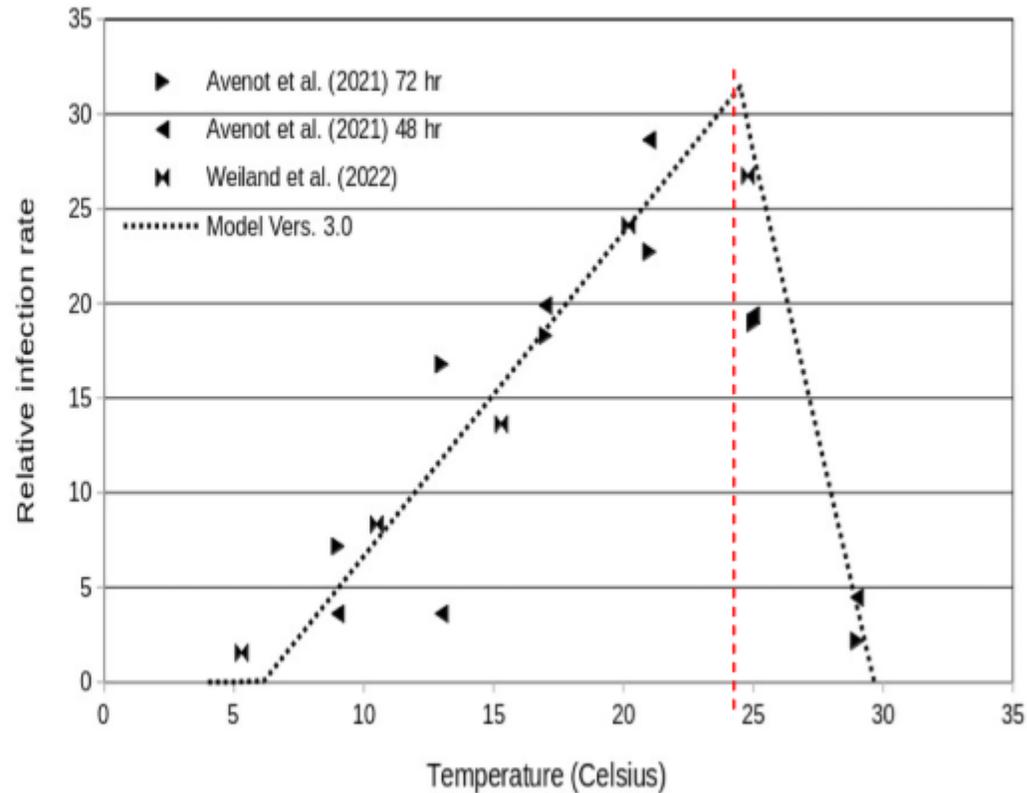
❖ Does **NOT** like hot weather

– Optimum at 23.7°C (75°F)

– Maximum at 28.0°C (82°F)

❖ **Reduces** by 3-h dry interruption after initial wet periods of 5 or 8 hours

► Dispersal - rain & irrigation



Coop (2023) Infection risk model documentation for USPest.org



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Building Health into Crops & Plantings



Freedom (*B. m.*
'SB 300')

Independence (*B.*
s. 'SB108')

Liberty Belle (*B.*
s. i. 'RLH-BI')

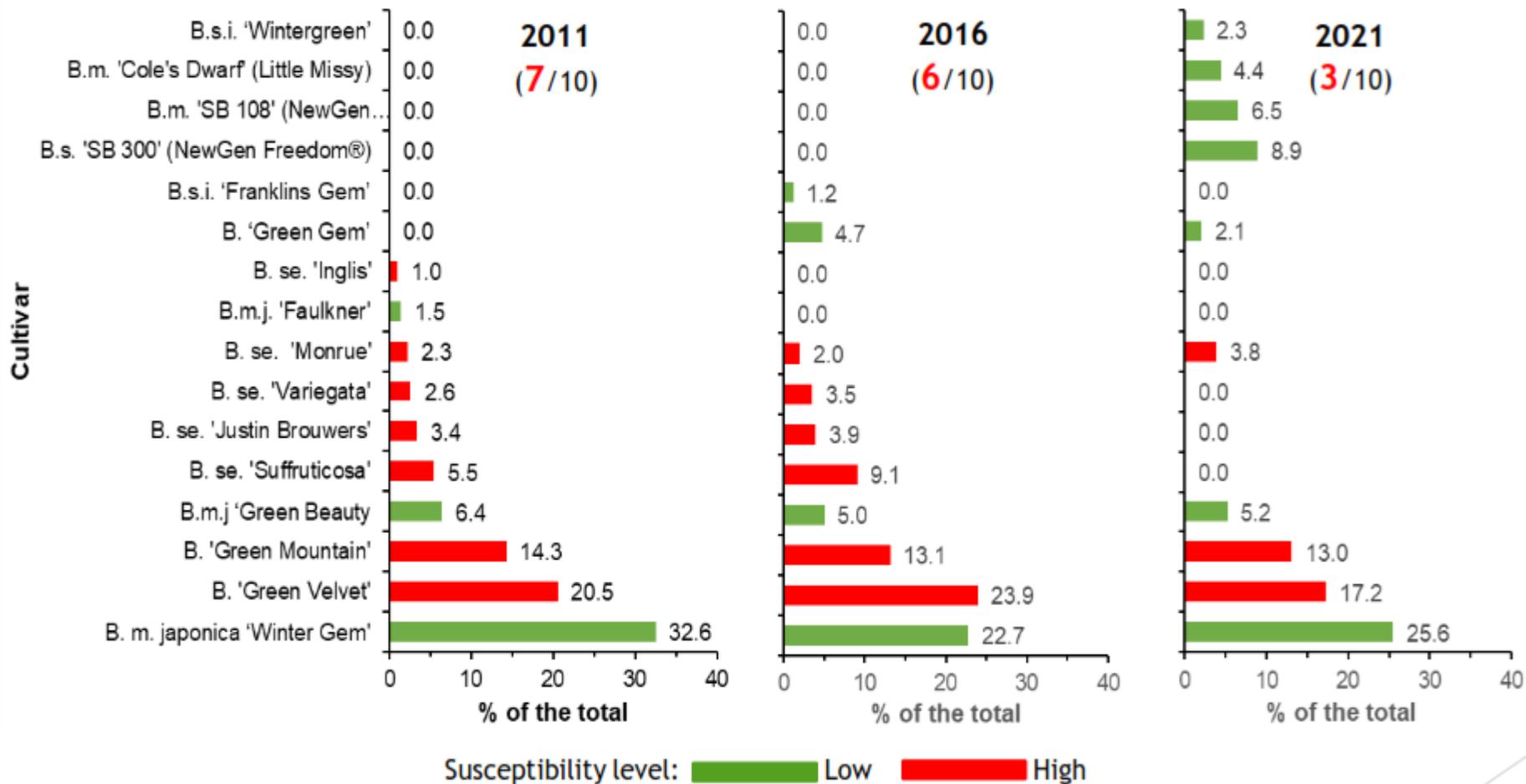


'Babylon Beauty', 'Skylight',
'Heritage', 'Renaissance'

Cultivar	Trade Name	LM-resistant
<i>B. m.</i> 'Cole's Dwarf'	Little Missy	Yes
<i>B. m.</i> 'Peergold'*	Golden Dream	Yes
<i>B. m. j.</i> 'Jim Stauffer'	Jim Stauffer	Yes
<i>B. m. j.</i> 'Winter Gem'	Winter Gem	Yes
<i>B. s. i.</i> 'Franklin's Gem'	Franklin's Gem	Yes
<i>B. s. i.</i> 'Nana'	Nana	Yes
<i>B. s. i.</i> 'Wee Willie'*	Wee Willie	Yes
<i>B. s. i.</i> 'Wintergreen'	Wintergreen	Yes
<i>B. harlandii</i>	Richard	Yes
<i>B.</i> 'Green Mound'	Green Mound	No
<i>B.</i> 'Green Gem'	Green Gem	No
<i>B. m. j.</i> 'Green Beauty'	Green Beauty	No
<i>B. m.</i> 'Northern Emerald'	Northern Emerald	No
<i>B. m.</i> 'John Baldwin'	John Baldwin	No
<i>B. sem.</i> 'Cliffside'	Cliffside	No
<i>B. sem.</i> 'Ohio'	Ohio	No

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Resilient Crops - Nat'l Top 10 Seller Shift



B.m.=*B. microphylla*; B.m.j.=*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*; B. se.=*B. sempervirens*; B.s.=*B. sinica*; B.s.i.=*B. sinica* var. *insularis*

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