

## BOXWOOD BLIGHT ID & MANAGEMENT SHEET FOR HOMEOWNERS

*From the Garden Club of East Hampton*

- 1) **BE VIGILANT:** Scout your boxwood yourself carefully after each rain especially when temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees or humidity levels are consistently high. Look for brown spots on leaves and dark streaks on twigs. Here are photos to help you:



- 2) **REQUIRE LANDSCAPERS TO USE **ONLY** SHEARS YOU PROVIDE WHEN PRUNING YOUR BOXWOOD.** The disease often travels from property to property on shears and other equipment.
- 3) **DISINFECT SHEARS WITH 70% ETHYL OR ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL:** Do this after pruning any shrubs you suspect of being diseased and especially before moving on to the next plant.
- 4) **DON'T BUY ANY NEW BOXWOOD IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A VALUABLE BOXWOOD COLLECTION.**
- 5) **NO OVERHEAD IRRIGATION ON BOXWOOD:** Check that your lawn sprinklers don't hit your boxwood and adjust if needed. Use drip only.
- 6) **NO LEAF BLOWERS.** Tell the various landscape professionals who work on your property not to use leaf blowers around your boxwood. Leaf blowers can spread the disease before it's been detected.
- 7) **IF LAB TESTS CONFIRM YOUR PLANTS HAVE BOXWOOD BLIGHT:** Prune out infected areas and contact a New York State Certified spray applicator to use an appropriate fungicide.
- 8) **DISPOSE OF DISEASED PLANT MATERIAL CAREFULLY:** Double bag it and take it to the *nonrecyclable bin* at the Town Dump. Do not put it in your compost pile or the Town's compost pile. Be sure to rake up diseased leaves on the ground and dispose as above.
- 9) **APPLY CLEAN MULCH ANNUALLY.** Apply an inch of clean mulch annually at the base of the plants to help block infection from soil splash.