



Boxwood Psyllids

Boxwood psyllids are small insect pests that affect boxwood shrubs.

- Their feeding is focused on the newest growth at the tips of branches, resulting in cupping and curling of the leaves that typically begins appearing in early summer.
- The symptoms of damage are mainly aesthetic, and treatment is usually not necessary. Prune out the affected areas, and fertilize affected shrubs for optimum regrowth.

Life Cycle

- Boxwood psyllids have one generation per year.
- They overwinter as eggs that have been laid in between bud scales.
- Emerging as the new growth begins in April to May, they begin feeding on the buds and young leaves, as nymphs that are light green and may have dark markings.
- Adults may continue to feed, however they are not as damaging as the young.

Management Options

- Early detection is essential is for managing the amount of damage.
- Pruning the new growth and discarding the clippings is effective.
- If detected, registered insecticides can be applied as the leaves are developing.
- When applied after leaves are fully formed, controls will not alleviate this season's pests, but can help in decreasing the next generation.



Resources:

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/boxwood-psyllid>
<https://extension.psu.edu/boxwood-psyllid>