

Appendix 6:

Biosecurity Guidelines

Biosecurity measures increase the likelihood that *C. buxicola* spores will be controlled or removed from your premises before they have a chance to produce infections and spread. Development of a 'Biosecurity Policy' for your Phase 1 Nursery Manual should be based on a review of the risk factors, your style of operation, your source of plants, and frequency of incoming traffic.

In your Nursery Manual, you should consider and write how you will handle:

1. The separation of potentially infected boxwood or pachysandra plants from the production area into a restricted area, placement of received uncertified plants into the isolation area, and regular monitoring of host plants in the main production areas
2. Visitor movement within the nursery, including guests and local residents
3. Movement of workers – both coming on-site and working on the facility – including in the restricted and isolation areas
4. The flow of plants through the nursery and into the shipping area
5. Prevention of boxwood and pachysandra plants that have been moved out of the 'clean' production areas from re-entering.

Restricted and Isolation Areas

Restricted and isolation areas are critical areas and require heightened biosecurity practices. Equipment and foot traffic should be managed carefully to minimize spore and plant debris transfer. The nursery must decide on the policy for movement of staff, vehicles and tools when moving to and from restricted and isolation areas.

Recommended, but optional practices:

- To limit the chance of spore transfer on plant debris, the nursery may require that a set of equipment and clothing be used for a specific area (i.e. equipment and clothing are not to be used in any other part of the nursery).
- The nursery may require that truck, gator and trailer beds be sanitized after moving boxwood or pachysandra plants to and from isolation areas or production beds, or after driving onto trailers
- The nursery may require workers to use disinfectant 'stations' providing spray bottles and cloths to wipe blades, and hand sanitizers to kill spores on hands prior to moving from one boxwood or pachysandra production area to another or from an isolation area to a production area.
- The nursery may require that workers should work in the restricted and/or isolation beds only at the end of the day, so that clothing can be washed before returning the following day.

Vehicle Sanitation

There is evidence that spores can live on plant debris which may reside in the soil. Growers should consider the risk of bringing boxwood or pachysandra plant debris into the nursery on vehicle under-carriages and tires, and, depending on weather conditions, moving spores on plant debris within the nursery on tractors and carts.

Growers may choose to spray tires, or require trucks to remain in a 'hot' zone in the shipping area to minimize the chance of moving *C. buxicola* spores into the nursery.

- Any debris from vehicles should be bagged and disposed of in a secure way. Debris cannot be swept onto the parking lot or into adjacent areas.
- Biosecurity policy decisions must be included in your Phase 1 Nursery Manual.

Contractors and Service Providers

A visitor policy for the nursery shall outline visitor record keeping and conduct. Materials and service suppliers (e.g. fuel or fertilizer suppliers, repair and maintenance contractors) move from facility to facility and may be a risk to the nursery. Movement of all visitors into the nursery's boxwood production areas should be controlled. Each visitor entering the boxwood and pachysandra production areas should be required to disclose their prior worksites and undergo a sanitation regime if they have been in the boxwood and pachysandra production areas in other nurseries.

- You may require visitors' boots be sprayed with a disinfectant prior to moving into the boxwood and pachysandra production areas.
- Movement of vehicles, tools, equipment and machinery into the boxwood and pachysandra production area should be controlled. Prior to entry into the boxwood or pachysandra production areas, they should be inspected and sanitized if necessary.

Sanitation for Staff:

Based on your degree of risk of introduction and spread of *C. buxicola*, the nursery's sanitation policy may be set at any one of many levels to minimize the chances of *C. buxicola* spores moving around the nursery. The nursery may require:

- Nursery purchased clothing, i.e. overalls, T-shirts, sweatshirts for your staff to wear onsite.
- Clean clothing at the start of each workday, including washed boots and clean gloves.
- In low risk situations, that boots be sanitized before entering the facility and hands washed with antiseptic soap prior to at the beginning of the work day.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has published a biosecurity guide which may be helpful when developing the nursery's biosecurity guidelines. The guide can be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/biosecurity/guide/eng/1323477130171/1323477259986#tctme>

The biosecurity procedures in place on your nursery must be explained in your Phase 1 Nursery Manual.