

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2023-06
May 30, 2023

Subject: APHIS Establishes a Quarantine for Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) in Michigan

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), is establishing a quarantine for the box tree moth (BTM) in all of Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties and parts of Jackson and Monroe Counties, Michigan.

BTM is a destructive pest of boxwood (*Buxus* species). APHIS is taking this action in response to confirmed detections of BTM larvae in Lenawee County, Michigan. BTM was first detected in Michigan on November 2, 2022. Since the detection in late fall 2022, APHIS has worked with MDARD to restrict host movement, delimit the infestation, engage stakeholders, and conduct outreach. APHIS, MDARD, industry, and research partners are working closely to develop useful pest control tools.

APHIS is prohibiting the interstate movement of regulated articles of *Buxus* spp. from the entire Counties of Lenawee and Washtenaw, the County of Monroe west of US-23 and north of River Raisin, and the County of Jackson south of I-94 and east of US-127.

Regulated articles include the whole plant, all plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead. APHIS is taking this action to prevent the spread of BTM to the rest of the United States. These measures parallel the intrastate quarantine that MDARD established on April 10, 2023.

The attached Federal Order outlines the safeguarding measures required for protecting the industry from this pest. The Federal Order and additional information about BTM may be found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/box-tree-moth>

For additional information, please contact the National Policy Manager, Allen Proxmire, at 480-392-8754 or allen.proxmire@usda.gov.



Dr. Mark L Davidson
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order DA-2023-06

FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine for Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

DA-2023-06
May 30, 2023

Effective immediately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), is establishing a quarantine for the box tree moth (BTM) in all of Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties, as well as parts of Monroe County west of US-23 and north of River Raisin, and Jackson County south of I-94 and east of US-127, in Michigan. This action is in response to the detection of a BTM population in Lenawee County, Michigan. This Federal Order prohibits the movement of regulated articles of boxwood (*Buxus* species) from Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties and parts of Monroe and Jackson Counties, to prevent the spread of BTM to other parts of the United States. These measures parallel the intrastate quarantine that MDARD established on April 10, 2023.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, plant product, or article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

To prevent the spread of BTM, APHIS considers it necessary to implement the quarantine and regulate the interstate movement of regulated articles of *Buxus* spp. from all of Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties and the parts of Monroe and Jackson Counties, Michigan noted above. Therefore, effective immediately, APHIS prohibits the interstate movement of regulated articles of *Buxus* spp. from the quarantine area. Regulated articles include the whole plant, all plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead.

The Administrator may designate a whole state or an area less than an entire state if the Administrator determines, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire state is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of BTM. In addition, less than an entire state may be quarantined if the Administrator determines that the affected state enforces equivalent restrictions and regulations for intrastate movement to effectively mitigate the spread of the pest. MDARD has established an equivalent quarantine and restrictions for intrastate movement of *Buxus* spp. in Michigan.

This Federal Order and information about BTM may be found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/box-tree-moth>

For more information about the BTM response program, please contact the National Policy Manager, Allen Proxmire, at 301-851-2307 or allen.proxmire@usda.gov.

A. Quarantine Areas

The quarantine area includes all of Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties, as well as parts of Monroe County west of US-23 and north of River Raisin, and Jackson County south of I-94 and east of US-127, in Michigan.

B. Regulated Articles

Regulated articles include all species, varieties, and hybrids of *Buxus* spp., commonly called boxwood or box tree. Regulated articles include the whole plant, all plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead.

Regulated articles are prohibited from leaving the quarantine area.

C. Compliance Agreements

Any entity within the quarantine area that wants to commercially grow and/or sell *Buxus* spp. must enter and abide by a compliance agreement. The compliance agreement shall include but not be limited to the following restrictions:

The compliance agreement holder must:

- Apply pest management practices and other safeguards.
- Allow inspectors to survey and inspect regulated articles and other plants as necessary.
- Actively ensure *Buxus* spp. sold from their facility does not leave the quarantine area.
- Attach to each *Buxus* spp. plant for sale (or its container) a tag, sticker, or other labelling with language comparable to the following:
 - *Buxus* spp. - Regulated Article – Quarantine Material
 - By the State’s Regulatory Authority and USDA APHIS PPQ
 - This plant may not leave the Box Tree Moth Quarantine area
 - For more information visit the State and/or APHIS website (and provide link)

Definitions

Administrator: The Administrator of APHIS, or any person authorized to act for the Administrator.

Compliance Agreement: A written agreement between APHIS and/or State authorities with an authorized person engaged in the business of growing, handling, or moving of regulated articles in which the authorized person agrees to comply with specific requirements.

Interstate: From any State into or through any other State.

Inspector: Any employee of APHIS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or other person authorized by the Administrator to perform the duties required under this Order.

Quarantine area: Any State, or any portion of a State, listed in this Federal Order.