GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

DATE: January 8, 2025

TO: Nursery License Holders Located Within Box Tree Moth Quarantine Area

FROM: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

SUBJECT: Notice for updated process for shipping boxwood **within** the Box Tree Moth Interior Quarantine area

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The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) implemented a quarantine for box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) in 2023 to limit the spread of this destructive and invasive pest of boxwood. The quarantine restricts the movement of boxwood and any part of boxwood plants within or outside of the quarantined area. The quarantine area includes the entire counties of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

Movement Within Quarantined Area

As a licensed nursery located within one of the counties listed above, you are required to ensure that any boxwood articles moved **within** the quarantine area comply with MDARD's Box Tree Moth Interior Quarantine by doing the following:

- Ensure that any boxwood plants are free from box tree moth (BTM, *Cydalima perspectalis*). This should be done by nursery personnel trained to identify signs of BTM on boxwood.
- Do not move boxwood plants or plant parts if box tree moth life stages are found. Infested plants or plant parts must be destroyed or isolated from the rest of the boxwood and treated until life stages are no longer found.
- Actively ensure boxwood sold from the facility does not leave the quarantine area.
- Display a sign conspicuously in the retail area depicting the current box tree moth quarantined area. An up-to-date map can be found here.

These requirements are described in detail in the attached Stipulation Sheet.

Your facility address will be maintained by MDARD as a recipient of this notice. If you distribute boxwood, you must adhere to the attached Stipulation Sheet. A signature is

not required. If you are distributing boxwood and MDARD finds that you have not followed the requirements outlined in the Stipulation Sheet, you will be in violation of the quarantine and subject to enforcement action that may include, but not be limited to, a monetary penalty.

Movement Outside of Quarantined Area

As a reminder, if you intend to move boxwood **out** of the quarantine area, a compliance agreement must be signed and stringent stipulations followed. Contact your district inspector or Amber Neils at NeilsA@michigan.gov or 517-449-0786 for details.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the box tree moth quarantine or would like a compliance agreement to ship Buxus outside the quarantine area, contact MDARD-NurseryCE@Michigan.gov.

BOX TREE MOTH – INTERIOR QUARANTINE
MOVEMENT WITHIN THE QUARANTINE AREA STIPULATION SHEET

Boxwood plants or plant parts shipped into or originating from the quarantine area are only eligible for shipment to other locations within the quarantine under the following stipulations under the authority of the Michigan Box Tree Moth Interior Quarantine.

REGULATED ARTICLES: **all boxwood plants or plant parts** either received by shipment into the quarantine area or produced within the quarantine area. **IMPORTANT:** boxwood may **not** be moved from within the quarantine area to any location outside of the quarantine area unless under a Movement Outside the Quarantine Area Compliance Agreement with MDARD.

REQUIREMENTS:
1. The grower/shipper (Facility) accepts responsibility to ensure that all parts of any boxwood plants, including nursery stock, are free from box tree moth (BTM, *Cydalima perspectalis).* This should be done by nursery personnel trained to identify signs of BTM on boxwood.
2. If any box tree moth life stages are found, no boxwood may be sold until the pest is controlled. If the pest cannot be controlled or the firm does not wish to do so, plants must be destroyed.
3. Actively ensure boxwood sold from the facility does not leave the quarantine area. Tools used to do so must be demonstrated to MDARD upon request.
4. A sign must be displayed conspicuously in the retail area depicting the box tree moth quarantine area. MDARD will provide a map, and it can be found here.

RECORDKEEPING:
The firm must maintain boxwood movement records for 36 months and copies shall be provided to MDARD upon request.

INSPECTIONS and FEES
1. MDARD retains the right to conduct inspections of the environs of the boxwood production areas, nursery stock and shipment records at any time.
2. MDARD retains the right to place box tree moth traps at any boxwood-distributing facility and monitor as needed.
3. For any inspections required to monitor compliance, additional fees beyond the normal annual inspection fees will be charged to the establishment by MDARD.

VIOLATIONS/CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENT
Violation of any of these conditions shall be sufficient cause for an immediate revocation of approval to distribute boxwood and the destruction of the boxwood plants or plant parts at the expense of the Facility as well as potential enforcement action including, but not limited to, a monetary penalty.