



Box Tree Moth

Cydalima perspectalis

Native to Subtropical Asia, the Box Tree Moth was first introduced to North America through Canada in 2018 and crossed the border into New York (Niagra County) in 2021. This pest primarily feeds and reproduces on boxwoods and is moved through the nursery industry. **It is not yet present in Rhode Island.**



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Identifying Features:

A white and brown moth, the Box Tree Moth has a wingspan of approximately 1.6-1.8 inches. Wings have a slight iridescent sheen and can sometimes be completely brown with white dots present on forewings (see photo). Both male and female adults can have this all-brown color variation.

Larvae (caterpillars) range in size from .5 inches newly hatched to 1.6 inches as they mature. They are bright green with a black head and variations of black, green and white stripes along the body. Larvae feed on the leaves of boxwood and produce silk cocoons when ready to pupate.

Eggs can be found in clusters on the underside of boxwood leaves and appear pale yellow flat ovals about 0.04 inches in size.



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Damage:

- Box Tree moth can cause severe defoliation of boxwoods, resulting in death.
- If larvae run out of leaves to feed, they will feed on bark.
- Webbing can be found among leaves and branches

If Suspected:

Contact the RI DEM Division of Agriculture's CAPS Office

Phone: 401-949-1770

Website: www.dem.ri.gov/pestalert

Information Sources

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/alert-box-tree-moth.pdf