This decision guide is a general starting place for anyone who has landscape boxwood that have been diagnosed with Boxwood Blight. For further details to guide your management decision we recommend 1) reading the "Expanding on the Boxwood Blight Management Decision Guide" and 2) reviewing additional information on the Virginia Boxwood Blight Task Force website (https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/boxwood-blight.html).

Boxwood Blight was confirmed in a landscape by a plant health-care professional.

Options

Option 1
Do nothing: disease worsens and continues to spread.

Option 2
Remove infected boxwood and leaf debris.
Mulch soil under any remaining boxwood and/or replacement plants (~2" mulch layer).

Option 3
Remove all susceptible boxwood and replant with non-susceptible plants and/or resistant boxwood cultivars.

- Prune out diseased branches.
- Protect remaining susceptible boxwood with recommended fungicides whenever weather conditions are favorable for Boxwood Blight development (fungicide treatment will be ongoing).

*Alternative approach for American boxwood (Buxus sempervirens)
Prune out diseased branches.

This alternative approach was proposed in response to reports of growers who rejected the option of removal of very large American boxwood. However, there is not enough research at this time to know how efficacious this approach will be over time in Virginia and this approach poses risks. It is important to keep in mind that although visibly diseased branches may be pruned out, pruning out affected branches will not eliminate the Boxwood Blight fungus from American boxwood. Further sporulation of the fungus on the American boxwood is likely and these spores can serve as a source of inoculum for uninfected boxwood in the landscape. Also note that weather conditions in Virginia are generally favorable for development of Boxwood Blight and repeated fungicide sprays may be necessary for much of the year on a 7-day to 2-week schedule, depending on product label directions and weather conditions. Additionally, it can be difficult to keep up with the sprays required, particularly under prolonged rainy weather.

English boxwood (Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa') is extremely susceptible to Boxwood Blight; therefore, no one is suggesting using this approach on infected English boxwood.