

HILDEBRANT NURSERIES

BOX 52, 167 OLDWICK RD OLDWICK, N.J. 08858 908-439-2256

Fine Horticultural products since 1923

HOW TO CHOOSE, PLANT, AND CARE FOR, BOXWOOD

By: Charles Hildebrant

Choosing the right variety of Boxwood -- Use the following steps and you will get the correct boxwood:

- Determine what the maximum height should be in 10 years.
- Determine what the maximum width should be in 10 years.
- Do you want it fast or slow growing?
- What should the basic shape of the boxwood be?
 - Spreading (i.e. it is wider than it is tall, generally getting no taller than 3 or 4 feet)
 - Upright - Columnar (tall, narrow, with parallel vertical sides and a flat top)
 - Pyramidal (Tall but stocky, similar to an Egyptian pyramid)
 - Pyramidal (Tall but slender, similar to a tall New England church steeple)
 - Globe shaped (basically ball shaped)
 - Loose and open or tight and formal

Answer the above questions and bring the answers to Hildebrant Nurseries and we will tell you which boxwood cultivar comes closest to your needs.

Where and how to plant boxwood

- Please understand --boxwood ARE NOT ACID LOVING PLANTS Have the pH between 6.2 and 7.2.
- The soil must be very rich and well drained - Boxwood cannot live in heavy clay, or poorly drained soils. If you have a heavy soil, replace it with Horticultural grade topsoil for installing your new plant.
- Always plant boxwood high. Never have the root ball crown equal to or below the surrounding soil.
- Boxwood are shade lovers. Avoid bright sunlight conditions. More sun equals shorter life.
- Never use an automatic irrigation system with boxwood. More boxwood are killed by irrigation systems than by all insects and diseases combined.
- Use ONLY pure Southern Pine Bark Mulch for boxwood. THIS IS CRITICAL! All other types of mulches will cause the pH level of the soil to drop below 6.2. This is one of the most important elements of growing boxwood.
- Never plant boxwood under a large established tree (within the drip line of the tree) Your new boxwood cannot thrive, or even survive, if it has to fight the aggressive root system of a large tree.

Care and maintenance of boxwood:

- Use the correct NON ACID type of fertilizers. Use ONLY Agricultural type 10-6-4 fertilizer. Fertilize boxwood April first, June first, and September first.
- Avoid Trimming your boxwood tightly. Several serious diseases are caused by poor air circulation in tightly trimmed boxwood.. The time to trim boxwood is the third week of June.
- Try to run your boxwood slightly on the dryer side. Wet or poorly drained conditions kill boxwood. Water only during draught conditions. If you are getting 1" or more of slow rainfall per week you do not normally have to water boxwood.
- Truly, use only Southern Pine Bark Mulch near boxwood, this is a must!!
- Use care to prevent or control diseases and damaging insects in boxwood.

Hildebrant Nurseries stocks the correct 10-6-4fertilizer, Horticultural grade topsoil, and Southern Pine bark mulch. You should be using these correct, specific, plant life support elements for your boxwood in order for your boxwood to live, thrive, and try to resist harmful environmental and disease conditions.