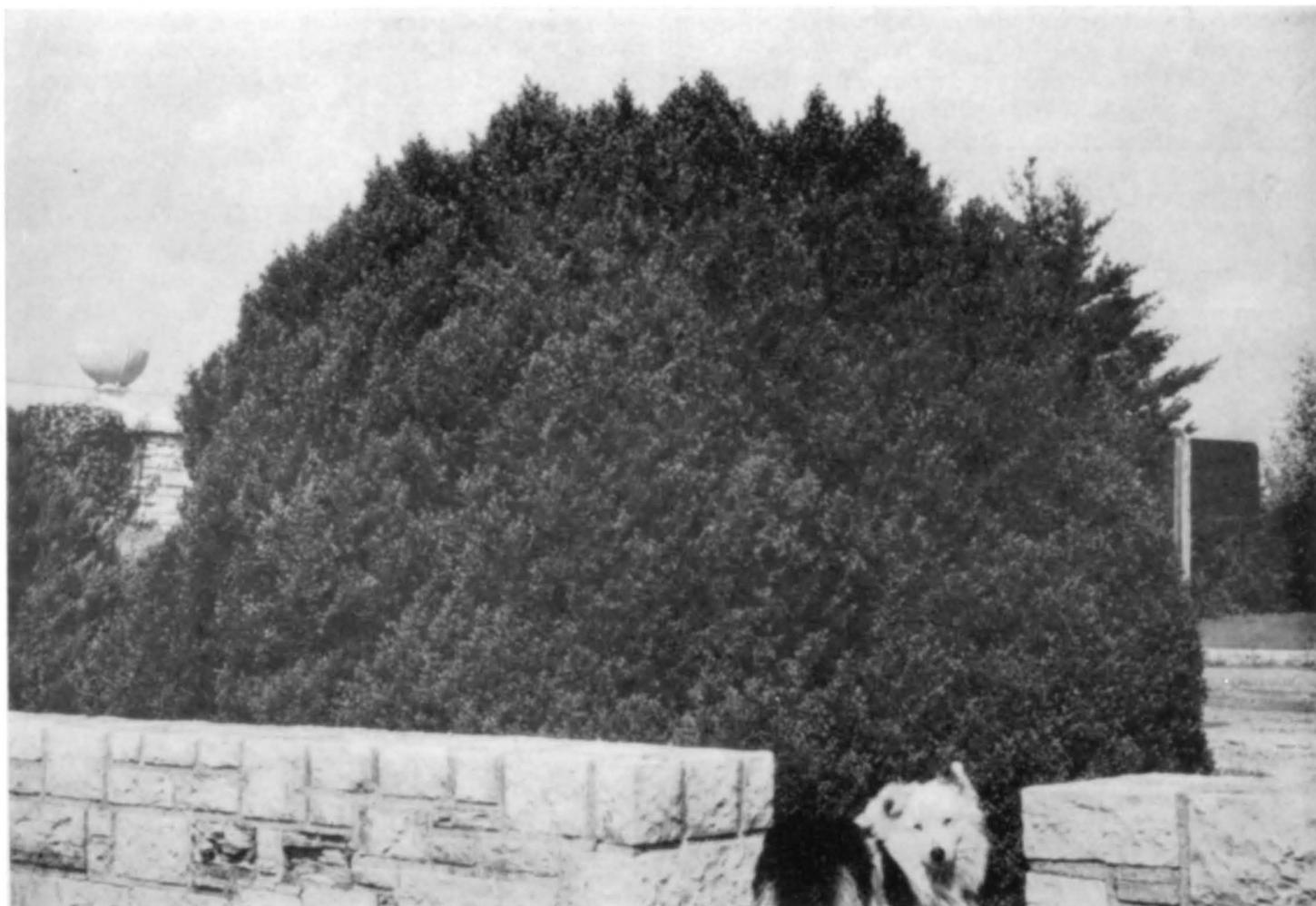


*The*

OCTOBER 1974

# Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



*Buxus sempervirens* L. 'Hermann von Schrenk' as it appeared at the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum and Nature Reserve in the autumn of 1973. It was then 36 years old. It makes a handsome, dense mound almost semi-spherical, measuring 8 feet tall by 10½ feet wide.

*Photograph, J. C. Horner*

Edited Under The Direction Of  
**THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY**

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 2nd V. P. ----- Mr. Alden Eaton  
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Address: The American Boxwood Society,  
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Incorporated under the laws of the State of Virginia, December 14, 1967. Exempt for Federal Income Tax. Contributions deductible by donors. Ref. IRS District Director, Richmond, Va.; Letter 430/GBS dated Dec. 4, 1968.

The Boxwood Bulletin is published four times a year by the American Boxwood Society in the quarters beginning with October, January, April, and July.

A subscription to the Boxwood Bulletin is included as one of the benefits of membership in the American Boxwood Society.

The Bulletin is \$5.00 per annum to non-members in the United States and Canada; single numbers are \$1.50 each.

Please address all communications, including manuscripts and change of address to the Boxwood Bulletin, Boyce, Va.

Reprints will be supplied to members and authors at cost but should be ordered at the time of an article's acceptance for publication.

Make cheques payable to the American Boxwood Society.

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 Boyce, Virginia  
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 Printed in U. S. A. by  
 Carr Publishing Co., Inc., Boyce, Va.

# The Boxwood Bulletin

October 1974

Vol. 14 No. 2

EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

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# Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr.

September 5, 1910 — September 3, 1974

The last issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* contained a memorial to a great plantsman, the late Henry Hohman. It was poignantly written by his long-time friend Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

Tragically and ironically this issue must report the sudden and profound loss to science, to horticulture, to the A.B.S., and to countless friends that results from the passing of Dr. Baldwin on September 3, 1974.

Dr. Baldwin, Professor of Biology and Botany at the College of William and Mary, and 1st Vice President of the American Boxwood Society, died unexpectedly at his home in Williamsburg after years of dedicated service to science, education, horticulture, and to our society. Born in the red-clay piedmont of Southside Virginia, Dr. Baldwin must have early been impressed with living, growing things. Two plants which found the soil and climate of his native Charlotte County ideal were tobacco and boxwood. Throughout his career as teacher and scientist he pursued and made invaluable contributions to botany from both the economic and aesthetic aspects exemplified by these two plants. Dr. Baldwin's contributions to economic botany are

many and include his work on *Strophanthus* a plant which produces compounds which synthesize into cortisone. His work in South America and West Africa for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture further indicate his expertise in the realm of economic botany.

Dr. Baldwin's interest in ornamental horticulture in general and boxwood in particular have prepared for him a monument of knowledge, beauty, and good will which will stand for years to come. His position as 1st Vice President of the A.B.S. and his countless contributions to the society and to its *Bulletin* are well known to members of this society. His outstanding collection of living boxwoods (and vast numbers of other plants) on the campus of William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Va., and the countless numbers he has generously given to individuals and institutions speak loudly and beautifully the words he wrote in the last issue of our *Bulletin*: "Right off I should admit that I am a box enthusiast." Enthusiast indeed, and much, much more. We shall forever be indebted to him.

*Robert McCartney*

*Biologist, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

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*The following brief summary of Dr. Baldwin's long and distinguished career appeared in the Richmond Times-Dispatch:*

Dr. Baldwin was one of the country's leading cytogeneticists and taxonomists and an internationally recognized authority on botany, plant taxonomy and economic botany.

A native of Chase City, he was included in the latest edition of *Who's Who in the World* and has been included in the last several editions of *World Who's Who in Science*. He has been included in *Who's Who in America* for the last 27 years.

His work as a cytogeneticist involved *strophanthus*, a plant with compounds that synthesize into cortisone, the pain-relieving drug used in the treatment of arthritis.

The search for *strophanthus* took him in 1948 to Liberia, French Guinea, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and several other African areas as principal botanist on the project for the Department of Agriculture.

During World War II, he served as associate cytologist on the Department's rubber plant investigation.

In the last several years Dr. Baldwin had spent much of his work enlarging the William and Mary collection of plants and fauna. His collection of boxwood, which he planted throughout the campus during the last two decades, is considered by many experts to be one of the most extensive in the world.

A graduate of William and Mary in 1932, he received his Ph.D. degree in biology in 1937 from the University of Virginia and was a postdoctorate fellow at Cornell University in 1937-38.

He joined the William and Mary faculty in 1937 and was later instructor in botany at the University of Michigan from 1939-42. After working for the University of Virginia, he returned to his alma mater in 1946 as professor of biology. He was chairman of the department of biology from 1952-62.

He was a member of more than two dozen societies and associations, including the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., the American Boxwood Society, The Botanical Society of America, The Virginia Academy of Science and Phi Beta Kappa.

William and Mary honored him in 1971 with its Alumni Medallion for his devotion to science and his attention and dedication to his students.

President Graves of William and Mary said, "Dr. Baldwin was virtually a one-man beautification committee in his efforts to landscape the old and new campuses of the college. Many of the majestic oaks, pines, shrubs and flowers scattered across the campus were nurtured by Dr. Baldwin and the students he constantly encouraged to improve the college's natural environment. The beauty of the college campus stands as a lasting tribute to his skill and dedication as Botanist, teacher and scholar."

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## Book Review

*Dr. Howard Gentry*

JOJOBA: A WAX-PRODUCING SHRUB OF THE SONORAN DESERT. Wade C. Sherbrooke & Edward F. Haase, 141 pp. Arid Lands Information Paper No. 5. 1974 — University of Arizona, Office of Arid Land Studies. Tucson, Arizona. 85719

This ring-bound book on 8 1/2 X 11" paper is another contribution from the Office of Arid Land Studies of the University of Arizona. Since 1971 they have acted as a clearing house and catalytic center for jojoba interests. This latest of their contributions is primarily an annotated bibliography on jojoba. The annotations, however, are actually succinct abstracts of each title listed. By careful reading of these abstracts, one can gain a panoramic view of the knowledge that has developed on and around jojoba during the last forty years. Altogether it provides an exhaustive review, to describe which I can do no better than to quote the authors' own introductory abstract.

"This document reviews the literature and includes an annotated bibliography (256 references) on the desert shrub jojoba, *Simmondsia chinensis* (Link) Schneider, of the southwester U.S. and northwestern Mexico. The first section, Biology and natural history, treats the following topics: plant morphology and embryology, reproduction, habitat and physiological ecology, genetic variation, phytogeography, systematics, evolution, ethnobotany, use by wildlife and domestic animals, and as an ornamental. The second section, utilization of wax, covers information on the chemistry and economic utilization of the liquid wax obtained from jojoba seed. Topics include whale oil substitute, sulfuriza-

tion, sulfation, hydrogenation, polymerization, epoxidation, acids, alcohols, esters, modern medicinal uses, patents, extraction, and jojoba meal. The third section reviews the literature on the production of jojoba seed, native populations, cultivated plantations, and plantation management. Current research activities of the Jojoba Indian Project, sponsored by the Office of Native American Programs at the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and other research and development activities on jojoba are noted. A major portion of the paper consists of the abstracted bibliography, which appears as a computer print-out with complete citations and key words. Author and key word indices are included."

The introduction of 31 pages to the bibliography proper constitutes in itself a concise up-to-date description of the whole jojoba subject; from the early investigations of jojoba natural history to current research activities. Much of what has been written about jojoba during the resurgence of interest in the last three or four years, has been a rehash of earlier thought and investigations. Unless the reader wants certain particulars or is carrying on into the jojoba frontier himself, he should be satisfied with this compendium. It is a rehash to re-settle all earlier ones and should relieve any congestions or indigestions in the offing.

This small book is well-organized, well-written, and the most complete summation of jojoba-ology to date. As a milestone in this young special subject of economic botany, the University of Arizona Press would do us all a favor by putting it into print as a hard-back book. The authors and the Office of Arid Land Studies are to be commended for a job well done. I recommend it to all those who want a complete digest of jojoba at hand. Copies are still available at the Office of Arid Land Studies, 1201 E. Speedway, Tucson, Ariz. 85719. H.S.G.

# A Symposium on the Care of Boxwood

## Introduction

June 28, 1974

I have asked various boxwood authorities to give me a written summary of their boxwood procedures. Here they are, along with my Heronwood brochure. I hope you will find the material interesting and helpful.

The fact that each writer has his own practices, which in some cases are different from the others, adds to the interest and value of this presentation, I believe.

Our readers are urged to send in their comments and suggestions.

*Neill Phillips*

---

**Robert B. Fisher**

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association  
of the Union  
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

June 10, 1974

Dear Admiral Phillips:

In response to your request of the 5th, we distribute to inquirers the Extension Service Publication 248\* on Boxwood in the Landscape for it presents the cultural recommendations of A. G. Smith and it closely describes the cultural practices used here at Mount Vernon.

We have been covering the foliage of the English boxwood with Wiltpruf late each August or during early September at the latest, however. In this area we find the summer infestation of red spider mites are controlled and the winter desiccation of the foliage is prevented by this one application unless the winter is exceptionally severe.

We would appreciate a copy of your instruction for tubbed plants of boxwood for this is a form of culture in which we have no experience and we have had requests for good information. We would like permission to distribute this instruction.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,  
*Robert B. Fisher,*  
Horticulturist

Admiral Neill Phillips, President  
American Boxwood Society  
Boyce, Virginia 22620

Dear Admiral Phillips,

In reference to your letter concerning the upkeep schedule of our boxwoods, it is appropriate to say we are still ensuing the routine as depicted by Douglas P. Andberg which appeared in the American Boxwood Bulletin, since my tenure at the National Arboretum consists of two months.

Enclosed is a duplicate of his publication, which we believe appeared in the October Bulletin of 1971.

Sincerely,  
*Alvin M. Sanders*  
Curator of Boxwood

---

**Boxwood at the U.S. National Arboretum**

*Douglas P. Andberg<sup>1</sup>*

Construction of the boxwood gardens was initiated in the 1950's under a formal plan created by the Arboretum director, Henry T. Skinner. Including formal beds of peonies and daylilies for color and contrast, the garden centers around the intersection of two axes, the one framed by tall oaks and the other by handsome crabapple trees. Since many of our recent boxwood acquisitions are maturing to a size suitable for transplanting from our nurseries, expansion of our gardens will soon be necessary. Many specimens in our permanent gardens are being resurrected from a state of decline due to poor soil drainage. We intend to improve this situation by transplanting and raising of plants to correct drainage and improve root structure and vitality.

Our program of boxwood maintenance in the past has revolved around feeding, pruning, thinning and spraying, topics which may best be covered separately.

*Feeding* — On a regular basis we have utilized chemical fertilizers to feed our boxwood. We have applied granular 10-6-4 at a rate of 1/4 cup per square yard. Special attention has been paid recently to the need of plants for additional nitrogen because of the application of mulch for weed control. High nitrogen fertilizer 20-10-5 has been applied around plants before the application of mulch, but no later than July 1.

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<sup>1</sup> *Gardener, U.S. National Arboretum, Plant Science Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20002.*

*Pruning* — Pruning is performed here in the winter months to remove dead, weak, or diseased wood. Occasionally, we also find it necessary to prune out excessive seed, to remove vigorous suckers, and mutant shoots as well as those unsightly branches which become rooted into the mulch and which may destroy the desirable form of a specimen. One of our most troublesome cultivars on all counts is *Buxus sempervirens* 'Pyramidalis' which usually attains a tall, ascending pyramidal form. Several of our plants are weak and thin, supporting also excessive masses of seed, the weight of which pulls down weak branches. We have been pruning out this weak wood and seeds, and any branches which are rooted into the mulch. Rooted branches often surpass the central leader (if any) in height and strength, thus destroying the symmetry of the plant.

*Thinning* — Very little thinning is practiced, as few of our cultivars attain a form so dense or compact that they may be prone to snow damage or poor ventilation. However, we occasionally find it necessary to brush off heavy snowfalls since no protective frames or coverings are used. It becomes necessary to remove compacted leaves and litter from the bases and crotches of a few plants which have an open or prostrate form, and which tend to trap wind-blown debris. This is done during fall, winter and early spring.

*Spraying* — In the past, spraying of Malathion in spring, summer and fall has sufficed to reduce leaf insect problems to a satisfactory level. In the future, we plan to use dimethoate, a systemic insecticide, in mid-April or after new growth hardens to control psyllids, miners, or mites.

*Mulching* — Mulch has been employed successfully for weed control in our gardens. We use Arboretum-produced wood chips and also purchased shredded oak mulch. Wood chips have been used in some areas to a depth of 4" or more with the unfortunate consequence that water runoff has been impeded in some areas where runoff must be facilitated to maintain proper soil-water relations. Excess mulch has also been responsible for layering of branches and main stems occasionally where mulch was thrown over or against natural plant crowns. Also, the use of mulch in the past may have been a contributing factor to the apparent nitrogen deficiency in some declining plants. Supplementary nitrogen should correct this problem. Mulch may do more harm than good if not properly used. It should not be too heavy and should never be applied to a hard, compacted surface. The ground should always be well cultivated first, lightly about the plants and more deeply between them.

*Liming* — Dolomitic lime is applied in winter months on alternate years to maintain a pH favorable to boxwood. This practice is especially beneficial to plants at the Arboretum site since the oak

mulch is particularly acid. *Buxus sempervirens*, especially, is known to be a lime-loving plant, while Korean or Japanese varieties of *Buxus microphylla* have been found to grow on soils of differing pH in their native habitat.

*Miscellaneous* — In transplanting boxwood from our nurseries to the field, we make it a point to use anti-defoliant sprays and water — soluble nitrogen immediately after moving to help combat transplant shock. Since our nursery stock is accustomed to a protected lath house climate, it benefits from these practices after being transplanted and also from good sturdy staking, especially in the windy spring months. Transplanting must be accomplished prior to the growth of new leaves and stems in the spring, or damage to this new growth can result from wilting due to wind, sun, or dryness.

We have encountered occasional rodent problems. Girdling of plant stems by mice in the winter has resulted in some minor plant damage. The use of rat poison, Warfarin mixed with cracked grain in the winter has eliminated or reduced the mouse and rat population in our gardens. Chipmunks and rabbits are present but do not appear to pose any problems.

We use aluminum record and display labels. Aluminum record labels, attached with copper-wire, appear to resist weathering quite well except when in contact with the ground where corrosive chemical fertilizers and moisture may quickly destroy them. The all-aluminum photo-metal display labels have proven to be very durable. As display labels in the public gardens have a tendency to disappear, use of less conspicuous record labels assure that identity of plants will not be lost. Furthermore, should all labels be lost, our permanent planting plan makes possible reidentification of plants.

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\**Boxwood in the Landscape* (Publication 248, revised 1972) can be obtained by writing the VPI & SU Mailing Room, Hutchison Hall, Blacksburg, Va.; or the VPI & SU County Extension Office in your county of Virginia.

United State Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

Northeastern Region  
U. S. National Arboretum  
Washington, D. C. 20002

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## Heronwood Nursery

Upperville, Virginia

### *Specialists in Topiary*

Rear Admiral Neill Phillips,  
proprietor

Richard Wines, Manager  
Telephone: 703-592-3788

July, 1974

- (1) Topiary Instructions — Boxwood, Yew, Hemlock, Juniper
- (2) General Notes on Boxwood Care, English and American

Tubbed and topiary specimens are horticultural treasures and need the particular care you would give to any valuable possession. But don't let the length and detail of these instructions confuse or worry you. The instructions are simple and become routine.

### **Tubbed Specimens: Boxwood, Yew, Hemlock**

Specimens planted out in the nursery have been root-pruned in order to give them a thrifty, close-set root ball which will ease the shock when later they are tubbed. Before being transferred to a tub, a specimen is sprayed with an anti-desiccant such as Stop-Wilt and its root ball is wrapped in burlap and tied. A good layer of crock chips and gravel is placed in the bottom of the tub to insure free drainage. For plants over about 3' tall, a tub with inside dimensions of not less than 21" x 21" x 21" should be used. An even larger tub may be desirable, but becomes impractical because of size and weight. (See "Tubs" paragraph later on in this article). The root ball is placed in the tub on top of the crock chips (over which a light layer of soil has first been sprinkled.) The burlap is loosened around the base of the trunk of the plant but is left on the root ball to hold it in shape. It will gradually rot away. The space around the root ball is then filled with a light, loamy soil mixture with plenty of humus and enriched by bone meal. The soil is well tamped down around the ball, to press out air pockets. After tamping, the surface of the soil should be about 4" below the top of the tub. Then it is given a thorough watering. After watering, the soil surface in the tub is given a 3" layer of pine bark mulch to conserve moisture, to protect the roots from heat and cold, and to improve appearance. The specimen is kept in the shade for at least a week after being tubbed, and during this time it is watered daily. After the first week, this daily watering should be stopped and a weekly watering routine commenced, as described later on.

## Placing of Tubbed Specimens

All tubbed specimens the first year after transplanting do best in partial shade. They should be protected from strong winds so far as possible. Always avoid exposure to water dripping from the eaves of the house. Do not let the tub stand in a puddle of water. There must always be free drainage.

Therefore when you receive a tubbed specimen give it a partially shaded location through its first summer. Do not put the tub in its first summer in a place where it will have full sunlight all day long, with perhaps the added heat from a brick wall or flagstone pavement. After the first summer you do not have to be so particular about shade and may find you can shift the tub to a location in full sun if that fits your garden scheme. But if the plant shows signs of scorching or drooping, move it back to a more shady location at least during the very hot months.

If a tubbed plant is left in one place, the tub should be given a half-turn from time to time to equalize exposure.

## Watering Tubbed Specimens

For a tubbed plant, watering is perhaps the most important factor. It must be given more water than a plant growing in the ground, where roots can reach far out. At the same time it must not become waterlogged, or its roots will rot. If there are sufficient drainage holes in the bottom of the tub and a layer of crock chips or gravel under the soil, water-logging should not be a problem. Care must be taken to see that drainage holes do not become clogged by roots of the plant. For this reason, a number of drainage holes in the tub is desirable. Drainage is improved if the tub is raised slightly above the ground, by wedges or short legs. When watering, always run the hose with a gentle stream for a long enough time to insure that the water has gone clear down to the bottom roots as shown by a free flow coming out of the drain holes.

Starting in early spring and continuing through the summer, give the tubbed plant a good watering once a week. As the weather gets hot, it may be necessary to give a watering twice a week instead of once a week, letting yourself be guided by the appearance of the plant. But give this twice-weekly watering only in very hot weather.

When watering, also play the hose at a brisk pressure through the foliage of the plant to wash off dust and cobwebs, to keep down red spiders, and give the pores of the leaves a drink. In hot weather do this in early morning or late evening so that steam will not form from the midday heat.

When autumn comes on, do not let the plant go into cold weather with dry roots.

In winter, continue watering a tubbed plant about once a week; except during a freeze, when no watering is done. Do not play the hose through the foliage in cold weather.

NOTE: For tubbed specimens, the foregoing watering directions should generally be carried out regardless of rain. Except during periods of prolonged, intensely rainy weather, the amount of rain water caught by the tubbed plant will as a rule not be sufficient.

### Re-Tubbing

Many plants in tubs thrive for years without re-tubbing. However if plant begins to show lack of vitality, lay the tub on its side, slide the plant out of the tub, root-prune, return plant to the tub and tamp in new soil around the root ball just as you would do when first tubbing up a field plant. Give foliage a light pruning to compensate for the root pruning.

### Feeding of Tubbed Specimens

Boxwood, yew, hemlock, and juniper topiary in tubs are not especially greedy feeders. If over-fertilized, the plant becomes gross and gets too big for its tub. At Heronwood we give a plant tubbed in a 21" x 21" x 21" tub a big double handful of bone meal in the fall and a big double handful of blood meal (or other organic fertilizer) in the spring. Sprinkle the fertilizer on the surface, scratch in very lightly, and then water.

### Shaping and Pruning of Topiary, Tubbed & Free - Growing

Topiary specimens are delivered to you with our best attempt at a clean, symmetrical shape. To keep the shape, you must tie and clip.

*Tying* is done any time of the year when you see a branch get out of position. It is tied back to a parent branch with narrow rawhide strips or with Twistems. String rots too quickly and has to be renewed. Rawhide or Twistems will last a long time. Copper or galvanized wire will last indefinitely, but it may cut into the wood.

*Clipping* will be your main job in keeping the specimen well shaped.

For *boxwood* the principal clip is given between about March 15 and April 15. That is, clip after danger of a severe freeze has passed, and yet early enough not to interfere too much with the vigorous new growth that starts in the first warm days of mid-April. During this early spring clip be very

severe to correct all errors in shape and to bring the specimen back to well-defined proportions; even though this severe clip may temporarily be unattractive. Use a pair of hand shears or electric shears, well sharpened; and a pair of sharp pruning shears to cut thick branches if necessary. Following this early spring clip, your plant will sprout a rash of tender green new growth. This is healthy and desirable, but in May it may tend to get too shaggy. Therefore, in May, June, and perhaps July if weather is wet and cool, give a light "hair-cut." Don't trim too severely in these summer clips, or you may produce unsightly scorched leaf-edges if weather is hot and dry.

For *yew, hemlock and juniper* topiary give the principal clip in July and August.

Do not prune or clip in late autumn or winter, as the wounds are susceptible to damage from cold. If tendencies to a bad outline develop, wait until early spring to correct with the shears. Tying, of course, should be done any time of the year when needed. Also, at any time of the year they appear, dead parts should be cut off; and undesirable sprouts appearing on the trunk or around the roots should be pinched off.

NOTE: The foregoing instructions as to time for clipping were drawn up in 1962 and represent the ideal schedule. With as much boxwood, yew and hemlock (topiary or free-growing) as we have on hand at Heronwood we have found—as a practical matter—that to take care of all our plants our clipping season must extend from late February until early November. Overall results are about the same, though boxwood clipped in the autumn looks rather spindly until the following spring, when it produces luxuriant new growth.

### Tubs

Use redwood, oak, fir, cedar, or cypress. Tubs of the desired inside dimensions 21" x 21" x 21" are difficult to find in the shops and usually must be custom made. There should be 8-12 drain holes 3/4" diameter. The tub should have short legs sufficient to allow an air space of at least 2" underneath it. Corners of tub *must* be braced with angle irons to withstand the weight and thrust of the plant's earth ball. Metal liners (copper or lead) add to the life of a tub but are now far too expensive and also make the tub too heavy for ordinary handling.

### Wintering Tubbed Specimens

We find that our topiary in wooden tubs does very well left unprotected in the open the year round in the Washington, D.C. area. We find that it helps to keep down evaporation in winter, with consequently less strain on the root system, if tubbed top-

iary is sprayed with Stop-Wilt on a warm day (temp. at least 70 deg.) about mid-November. This may be done again in January if a warm (70 deg.) day comes. Plants in cast stone or clay tubs or pots in winter should be put into a trench with straw or leaves packed around them to prevent the tubs from cracking.

### Transplanting Times

Our topiary (boxwood, yew, hemlock, juniper) may be transplanted in the Washington, D.C. area either:

(1) *Spring*. From early spring after ground thaws until about the 2nd week in June. If an unusually hot, early summer sets in, then no transplanting should be done after about the first of June.

(2) *Fall*. From about the 15th of August (unless weather is unusually hot and dry) until about the 1st of November. After the 1st of November there is a risk that an early, prolonged freeze may set in before roots have had time to get established.

In all cases of transplanting, follow the directions given under *watering*.

### Boxwood Pests

*Boxwood Miner*, an insect that lays its eggs inside the leaves. Spraying preferably should be done just as larvae emerge, about 3rd week in April through 1st week in May; earlier in warm weather, later in cool weather. Swollen blisters appear on the undersides of the leaves, which break open as the larvae appear. Repeat spraying if a hard rain occurs. Recommendations for spray materials to use are changing rather frequently due to new developments. At present (July 1974) the authorities recommend:

May 7 - 15 ISOTOX

June 15 - 30 CYGON 2 E (perhaps the June Cygon application is sufficient, without the Isotox)

DIAZINON, the latest recommended spray, was used at Heronwood in early June 1974 against boxwood miner, with apparently 100% satisfactory results. (ISOTOX and CYGON not used.)

*Red Spider*. A boxwood hot weather pest. It causes browning of foliage, giving it a bronze cast. Shake a branch of foliage over a piece of white paper and tiny red spiders can be seen. Spray foliage with a garden hose under highest obtainable pressure. For severe infestations DIAZINON appears, so far, to be the most satisfactory chemical spray.

### General Summary on Boxwood Care, English and American

For plants, in tubs or in the ground, clipped or free-growing, we find these practices desirable:

(1) Light and air must find their way into the center of the plant. For American boxwood prune out some of the interior branches back to the main trunk. For English boxwood, hand pluck interior branches. Do this, as needed, at any convenient time from early spring until mid-autumn.

(2) For clipped hedges, the width of the bottom must be greater than the width of the top.

(3) In the case of alleés or walkways lined with box, the growth of the plants eventually will block off the opening. Plant growth will have become too rigid to submit to clipping. You must then use heavy lopping shears and a pruning saw and prune the protruding branches back to the main trunk. Do not be alarmed if the result is a bit unsightly just at first. New growth will soon break out over the scars.

(4) For established boxwood in the ground:

*Watering*: We do not attempt to water. A light sprinkling does more harm than good because it tends to bring roots to the surface. We have far too much boxwood to be able to water heavily.

*Feeding*: We do not feed an established plant unless it appears to need stimulation. Feeding makes for temporary abnormal growth that usually is undesirable.

*Clipping*: Clip any time from late February until early November.

(5) *Winter Protection*

Our winter protection consists of:

Wrapping the vertical trunks of boxwood standards with black plastic or with heavy burlap, very securely tied on. This protection reduces the risk of the bark splitting due to alternate thawing and freezing. Remove the wrapping in the spring.

For small plants newly transplanted in the ground we provide short pine boughs, with sharpened ends, stuck into the ground and leaning over the boxwood.

After a snowfall we shake all our boxwood or comb it with a long-handled rake or broom to dislodge the snow; to prevent snowburn and to avoid breakage due to the weight of the snow.

We have so much boxwood, much of it so big, that it is impractical to cover it with wooden frames, burlap, etc.; desirable as that might be.

CULTURAL PRACTICES ON ENGLISH  
AND AMERICAN BOXWOOD AT MORVEN  
PARK, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA.

The Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Charles L. Otey  
Resident Manager

**Brief on English and American Boxwood**

**Watering:**

Our boxwood is watered by overhead automatic 23 controlled watering stations ranging from one minute to one hour. Overhead watering is considerably more desirable than ground watering or drenching. Weather, location of plants and soils must all be considered in watering.

**Feeding:**

We use a balanced lime for changing pH conditions. Fertilizers Agrico 10-6-4 and Miller 10 -10 -10 have been used successfully for good growth and color. Our lime is generally applied over winter and fertilizing is accomplished in early spring and very late fall.

**Spraying:**

For leaf miner we use Cygon 2E, Diazinon or Malathion on an alternate basis each year. We also use Kelthane for spider mites only after inspection to see if any are present. We do no preventative spraying.

**Trimming:**

We employ the use of electric hedge shears for trimming American boxwood only on a basis of every other year. The alternate year we pluck very heavily and also pluck both English and American boxwood for cuttings. We vent English boxwood by spending considerable time on each plant to clean it out very well inside. After this procedure, we dust the inside stems with sulphur.

**Practices**

**Trimming:**

The trimming of boxwood should be accomplished after all heavy freezes are over. In the Northern Virginia area this is generally the first of April. As soon as possible after this time, all shearing and plucking should be completed. The total area of the sides and over the tops of the plants should be plucked by removing pieces four to six inches in length, with the aid of hand pruners.

It is necessary at times in limited space conditions, walkway areas, topiary work or parterre gardens to shear boxwood to hedge effects with the use

of hedge shears. It is very desirable even when shearing is employed first to pluck the plants to allow deeper leaf growth after shearing. By plucking the boxwood, one allows the entry of sunlight and this in turn produces additional interior growth within the plant.

We spend considerable time on English boxwood to make certain that they vent well on at least three sides and that no leaves are allowed to collect in the crotches. After the inside trim-out is completed, which includes even very small dead pieces closer to the top of the plant, the interior of the plant is dusted with sulphur.

Our use of electric clippers has proved very satisfactory and we use this method of clipping every other year on American boxwood only. The alternate year we accomplish considerably more plucking on the boxwood that have been sheared the year before.

In taking cuttings for propagating new plants, we also accomplished a good job of plucking over the upper part of the plant. Although we have been unable to accomplish it totally, it is desirable to remove any dead interior branches on both the American and English boxwood.

**Watering:**

The watering at the Morven Park gardens is accomplished by an automatic watering system on 23 controlled stations ranging from one minute to one hour. The watering system is programmed according to the weather conditions and also according to the individual areas to be watered by each station. I believe that overhead watering is considerably more desirable than close ground watering or drenching. Only in transplanting or in drought conditions do we consider drenching, and even then, the water is distributed readily around the plant material. In watering, consideration must be given to the sub-soil structure of the area to be watered and water should never be allowed to flow over the crowns or stems of boxwood plants. We try very hard to keep our plants mulched over winter to maintain moisture. All of the English boxwood are covered in winter with lath and burlap shading.

**Feeding:**

The feeding of boxwood and other plant materials such as broadleaf evergreens is accomplished by applying a selected specially prepared plant food over the surface feeding root area of the plants. This feeding area around larger established plants is generally way into the lawn or path area that exist, therefore, feeding the sod areas and path areas in a garden also feeds the plants.

To improve the center growth of plants, and to improve the additional tree growth that may be desired, it is necessary to deep feed plants on a different scale. An electric auger is employed for this pur-

pose and holes are drilled or bored into the ground area around the outer edges of the plants or at the drip line of a shade tree or evergreen to penetrate the root feeding or zone feeding area of the plant or tree. On larger trees and plants the depth of the holes is approximately 15-18 inches. These holes are filled with a selected fertilizer almost to the top.

At Morven Park we have been using a balanced lime which contains almost equal parts of calcium and magnesium from ground dolomitic agricultural limestone. If applied to the surface the material is spread beyond the outer edges of the foliage. We also plan to experiment with lime injected around plants hopefully to make the material more available to the roots. We have used in the past Agrico 10-6-4, Agrico 16-8-8 and Miller 10-10-10, all very good commercial fertilizers. The fertilizer is applied usually over mulched plants and is well distributed around the plant rather than being in a single band. The boxwood are fed in late winter or early spring and supplemental feeding is always accomplished prior to July 15th. Depending upon the condition of the plant, we may feed again in very late fall.

#### **Spraying:**

Insect damage can be very disastrous if continued inspections are not made throughout the grounds. The boxwood leaf miner is a serious insect pest of the tree boxes (American box), but apparently is of little importance in the dwarf, or English variety of box. Evidence of its work is the occurrence, by late summer, of small oval blotches or blisters about on-fourth inch in diameter on the undersurface of the leaves. This injury is caused by the yellowish maggots of a very small gnat-like fly, which mine inside the leaves and hollow out these areas. Heavy infestations cause serious injury to many of the leaves, premature shedding and gradual weakening of the plants. The over-wintering maggots, or larvae, mature about the third week in April, Northern Virginia Area, and then transform to pupae and adults during the next several days.

We are generally in agreement that spray materials for boxwood leaf miner should be alternated year after year. Sygon 2E, Diazinon, AG-500 and Malathion all have been successfully used for boxwood miner. The leaf miner spraying requires timing depending on the spray material used. At Morven Park we spray Cygon 2E about the third week in April or May 1st. Diazinon is applied June 1st and no later than July 15th for a second spray. If Malathion is used, it is applied when the adult flies appear. The best time to see the gnat-like fly or miner is during the very early morning.

During the past several years, with the use of the insecticides mentioned, we have not been required to spray for red spider mites. We do use Kelthane for red spider control on Eleagnus and also on boxwood if we find any infestation. The use of equipment is most important and we use 400 lbs. pressure on our spray rig with a discharge nozzle for six (6) gallons per minute.

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

June 17, 1974

Dear Admiral:

Mr. Eaton asked us to respond to your letter of June 5th concerning the upkeep schedule of our boxwood collections here in Colonial Williamsburg. The following are our procedures.

**Watering** — Our established boxwood are watered during periods of drought as we feel it is needed (10 days - 2 weeks) until the dry period is broken. The are thoroughly soaked. In some plantings where it is possible, the water is left on night and day. More attention is paid to newly established plantings, and these are watered weekly if rain has been insufficient to give the soil a good wetting. Experience has taught us which plantings need more frequent watering due to soil conditions, exposure and competition for soil moisture from other trees and shrubs growing in with a close proximity to our boxwood plantings.

**Feeding** — We depend heavily on liquid fertilization. Weak and newly transplanted box are root fed with 20-20-20 (analysis may vary) just as growth starts in the spring and again approximately two weeks later. All topiary and special plants are fertilized at this time, also. About the middle of June to the first of July after growth hardens, these plants are fertilized again. In certain cases, we fertilize newly transplanted boxwood at the same time we fertilize our trees and liquid feed in the spring and summer as above. Well established plants which seem to be growing well with good appearance are not fertilized.

**Spraying** — Our spray program is limited to and governed by the need for spray. For leaf minor we spray Malathion with a spreader-sticker around the first of May depending on the weather when the adult insect is active. Cygon is used around the middle of June until the first of July. For outbreaks of Spider Mite we use Kelthane. When boxwood psyllid is a problem, we spray with Sevin in April plus a wetting agent.

**Pruning, Clipping and Plucking** — We prefer to do our main pruning in the latter part of March or just as growth starts. Clipped hedges are done at this time, if needed, and again around the middle of June after growth hardens. Many of our hedges need only one clipping a year, and some others twice. Some, but not many, need a third cutting in early fall to remove long shoots for better winter appearance. Topiary fall into this group, also.

Plucking is a good practice which we try to follow insofar as time will permit. It allows the

entry of light and is an aid to good ventilation which helps the growth and health of boxwood.

Hope this information will be of help in composing your article.

Yours truly,  
Dick  
R. D. Mahone

Director  
Landscape Construction and  
Maintenance

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## HOW TO GROW BOXWOODS

E. Bradford Clements

1. Plant boxwoods where the soil is well-drained. Good drainage is achieved by providing ditching or tile drains, by elevating beds, by planting on terraces or on hillsides, by planting within the perimeter of the roots of large trees AND by adding humus and ground limestone to the soil. Drainage problems occur when the planting area is flat, where the soil is heavy clay and on newly-filled land.
2. Locate boxwoods where there is some protection from the Winter sun and wind—on the north or east sides of buildings, shrubs or trees. This is less important than locating them on well-drained soil. However, **DO NOT PLACE BOXWOODS CLOSE TO THE SOUTH OR WEST SIDES OF BUILDINGS.**
3. Winter protection is a must the first year. Use evergreen boughs, other brush, old hampers or burlap attached to stakes driven in the ground. Protection is needed on the south and west sides of the plant. **DO NOT WRAP WITH BURLAP, PLASTIC OR OTHER MATERIAL.** Protection is not needed until after Christmas. Old Christmas trees give the best protection.
4. Growth by fertilization and watering should only be encouraged in April and May. Late-season growth will not be mature by winter-time and will usually kill-off. Avoid excessive fertilization and watering at any time.
5. If pruning is done, it should be done in the early spring before growth starts. If you trim the outside of the plant, you should also reach in and remove weak branches from the interior.

Note: New plantings in summer and early fall should be carefully watered during periods of dry or hot weather. Boxwoods may be moved in March and April and from August 1st to mid-October.

## Boxwood Pests

1. "Cupping" of leaves. This is caused by an insect—Boxwood Psyllid.

Control is effective by spraying about April 15th with CYGON pesticide. Psyllids do not kill the plant but do spoil its appearance.

2. Blister-like areas on the underside of the leaves. This is caused by the Boxwood Leaf Miner. Control is effective by spraying with 25E DIAZINON during the last week of July. Leaf Miners rarely kill the plant and often go unnoticed. We have used ground limestone which is available as "screenings" at the quarries around Milton and placed it in, or on the soil, around the plants.
3. Rabbits and mice do not eat boxwood leaves or girdle the plants. Dogs do not do significant damage to them either.

*CLEARBROOK BOXWOODS, Milton, Ontario,  
Canada*

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## The American Boxwood Society

### NEW MEMBERS

October 1974

- British Columbia Institute of Technology, Library  
Serials, 3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C.  
V5G 3H2 Canada.
- Barlow, Mr. Walter G., Box 341, Poor Farm Road,  
Pennington, N. J.
- Damask, Mr. Arthur C., 29 Brewster Lane, Bellport,  
N.Y.
- Fenton, Dr. & Mrs. A. Budd, Lucky Hit Farm, White  
Post, Va.
- Hagerty, Mrs. Harcourt, St. Stephen's Church, Va.
- Hayes, Mr. S. L. Jr., 213 Highland Avenue, Walling-  
ford, Pa.
- Hayes, Mr. Samuel L., III, 345 Nallatan Street,  
Westwood, Mass.
- Howes, Mr. Richard, P. O. Box 10462, Knoxville,  
Tenn.
- Rowlett, Mr. Frank M., 811 Greenwood Road,  
Wilmington, Del.
- Shriver, Mrs. James M., 3200 Littleton Pike,  
Westminister, Md.
- Starr, Mr. Richard F. S., P. O. Box 172, Upperville,  
Va.
- Wallace, Mr. Robert L., 223 West Sycamore Street,  
Chase City, Va.

# Approaches To Possible Controls Of English Boxwood Decline

*George Montgomery?*  
R. C. Lambe and W. H. Wills

We now know something about the cause of decline in English boxwood. The fungi that are most frequently associated with root rot have been studied in the greenhouse by Mr. George Montgomery as a part of his graduate research. He has been able to show that certain of these fungi are capable of causing disease in English boxwood. Therefore, we have initiated studies in to the control of the disease in the laboratory, greenhouse and field.

Two possible avenues of control exist: 1) chemical control, 2) development of resistant varieties. Chemical control is desirable in the short run, but in the long term, disease resistant varieties will prove most suitable.

The possible chemical eradication of soil-borne fungi associated with decline with soil fumigation is being investigated in the experimental boxwood nursery of Mr. P. F. Hilbert, at Waterford. An area of severe disease loss was selected, all diseased plants were removed and the broad spectrum fumigant, methyl bromide plus chloropicrin, was applied as a gas under a plastic cover. After the plastic was removed on May 19, 1974, one half of the treated area and a similar untreated area were planted with small English boxwood propagated and grown at VPI & SU. The remainder of the treated and untreated test areas were planted on September 11, 1974 with plants grown at Morven Park. The results of this test may not be apparent for a year or more.

Promising control of the fungi isolated from the roots of declining boxwood in the laboratory at VPI & SU stimulated the application of an experimental chemical from the Dow Chemical Co. in a boxwood planting near Middleburg. English boxwood in a formal garden belonging to Mr. George McGhee that were beginning to show decline were used in this test. Both plants showing decline and apparently healthy ones, were thoroughly drenched with the experimental chemical diluted in water. Observations made recently by Mr. McGhee and researchers from VPI indicate that previously declining plants are recovering or at least have not declined further.

Long range planning for control of plant diseases always involves consideration of a program of breeding for disease resistance. A natural population containing plants that reproduce sexually with the production of viable seed is a first requirement for such a program. The apparently, generally accepted belief is that English boxwood does not produce seed although L. H. Bailey, in the standard *Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, mentions terminal flower clusters in *Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa*. This past summer we located two plantings of English boxwood in which apparently normal seed are produced, albeit quite sparingly, and often only on lower branches. At one of these locations the plants were reportedly established "from all over the world" and may contain unusual material although the plants appear to be ordinary English box. In both locations in Loudoun County, Virginia, plants are declining. Seed have been collected and cuttings of the seed producing plants have been rooted in the greenhouse at VPI & SU.

If successful in germinating these seed, lines of English box may possibly be established having an unknown amount of genetic variability in them. These lines can then be tested for disease resistance and used for vegetative propagation if desired or used as stock plants in crossing with other boxwood plants, perhaps hybridizing with American box, which appears not to be susceptible to decline. It should be emphasized that any results of such a program of developing resistant plants would be very slow in coming and would be a long range substitute for the immediate goal of chemical control with some fungicide.

We are, however, interested in obtaining seed from any source of English boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens 'suffruticosa'* and would welcome contributions of such seed.

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Research Fund Contributor

July 1 — October 1

Mr. J. Warrell, Carlisle, Pa.

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The trial test with fumigants at Mr. Hilbert's was conducted with the valuable assistance of Mr. Jack Brown, Extension Agent, Loudoun County, Virginia.



Nora Weber stands against a backdrop provided by a giant, century-old boxwood planted by her husband's grandparents. This plant is in the vegetable garden of the Weber home.

*Photograph, George E. Penhale*

# Visit To A Missouri Boxwood Nursery

Mary A. Gamble

John Ferdinand Weber, southeast Missouri farmer and boxwood enthusiast and nurseryman, has been growing boxwood for almost 50 of his more than 80 years. He lives on the same farm and in the same house where he was born in 1893. Across the front of the two-story house is a row of dark green boxwood, rising well above the first floor windows. This boxwood was planted by his grandparents who obtained it in Sainte Genevieve, Missouri, where they were told the parent plants had come from the chalk country of England. They called it "English box."

Like most Missouri farm children of his time, John Weber completed eight years of elementary school in a neighboring town. He helped with farm chores and, following in his father's footsteps, became a farmer. He raised corn, wheat and soy beans — typical crops of the region — on the tillable acres of the 150 acre farm. In his spare time he cultivated a hobby, propagating boxwood from cuttings made from the handsome and vigorous specimen plants at his home. When World War I began he served. In 1925 he married Nora Schiwitz who lived on an adjoining farm.

Mrs. Weber shared her husband's enthusiasm for boxwood. She helped with the cuttings and found that they rooted for her when she simply stuck them in the ground. For 10 years or so the Webers built up a nursery stock, starting new nursery beds as needed until they covered 3 1/2 acres and held some 4,000 plants, all of the same strain of *Buxus sempervirens*. Mr. Weber learned that before he could sell plants, his nursery must be government inspected. This was done and for a time the Webers ran both farm and nursery; but when he was 67 years old Mr. Weber gave up corn and beans for boxwood. It proved a good choice. Not only did John and Nora Weber like boxwood, they found it profitable. "We made more money from our boxwood than we did from our farm crops," Mrs. Weber said. Mr. Weber took up topiary and his nursery business prospered.

On the day we visited the Weber nursery Mr. Weber, due to recent illness, was unable to show it to us. Mrs. Weber, a spry, petite, merry-eyed and hospitable woman just one year her husband's junior, was our guide. She showed us a fertile area near the mail box where most of the boxwood cuttings are rooted. The Webers use no hormone powder and have no cold frame. They occasionally place a sunshield over very young plants. They give no winter protection and all watering necessarily depends on nature, on rain and snow. They make their cuttings in March and move the plants into



Mary Gamble admires the dense wall of boxwood that edges a walk leading from the front door of the Webers' house to the barnyard; a similar walk in the opposite direction leads to the vegetable garden.

Photograph, Lucy Mason

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larger nursery areas when they are one to two years old, "as time is available," Mrs. Weber commented. When asked if they had any special problems with the boxwood, such as mites, she said "No."

The Weber farm is in Scott County, near the town of Benton and Illmo. Scott, together with Sainte Genevieve, Cape Girardeau and Perry counties, could be said to make up the heart of Missouri boxwood country. All are bounded on the east by the Mississippi River. They share the same general topography, much of the land being upland, referred to generally as the "river hills." Much of the boxwood brought into the St. Louis area for sale in the spring comes from this region.

In July 1974 three members of the Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society, together with their husbands, visited these counties. The visitors were Jane and George Penhale, Lucy and Max Mason and Mary and Goodrich Gamble; their pur-

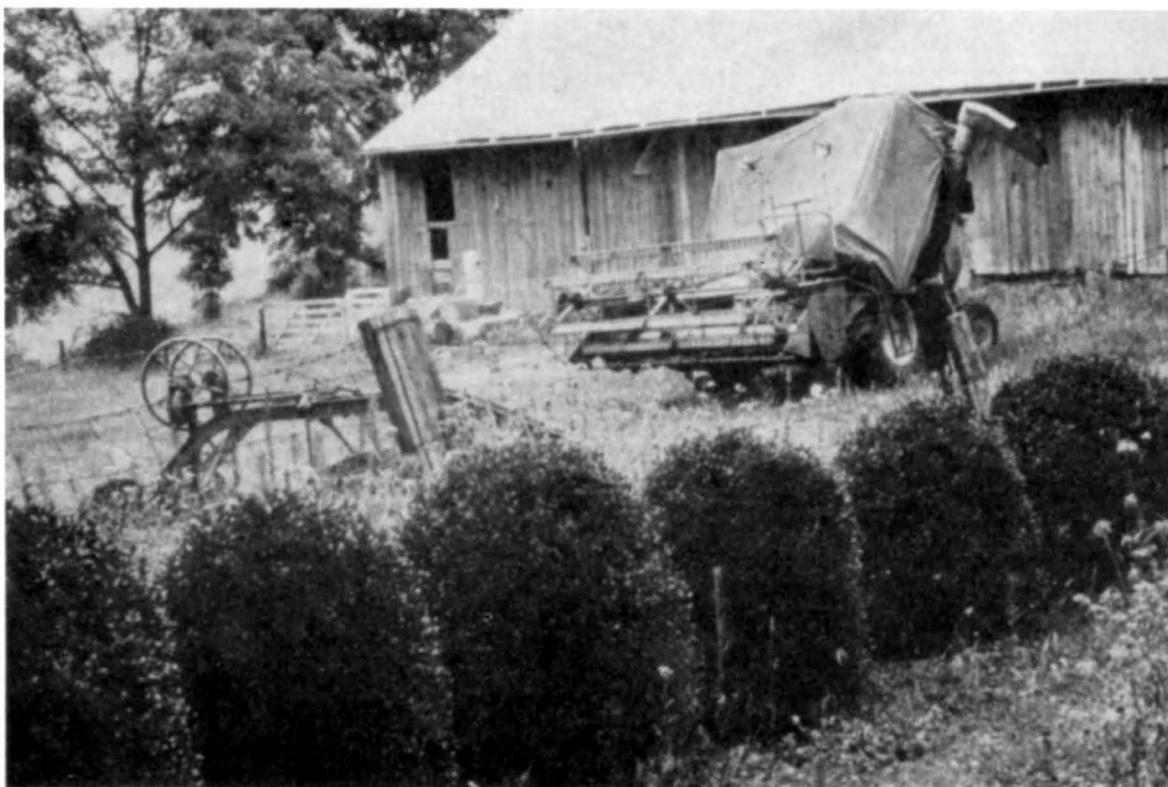
pose was to observe and study the boxwood that flourishes there, in public and private plantings. The question arose: what did three different spots in three different counties have in common? The "spots" were two nurseries and a town. This writer contacted the Missouri Soil Conservation Service seeking an answer.

Inasmuch as it is generally said that boxwood is not "fussy about soil as long as it is well-drained and reasonably friable, we believe boxwood growers will read with interest the following description of the soil in these three spots. It was given us by Mr. Burton L. Brown, soil scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture which is now engaged in a county-by-county survey of Missouri soils. We asked Mr. Brown to give his answer in layman's terms and he wrote:

"All three sites (Sainte Genevieve, the Weber farm and a nursery in Perry County) are in close proximity to the Mississippi River. These uplands, referred to generally as the 'river hills,' have certain properties in common. The soils differ slightly

throughout the distance. The dominant soil series in the Benton-Kelso (Weber nursery) area is *Memphis* and the other two sites are probably *Menfro*. Both series consist of deep well drained soils with high available water capacity formed in thick loess deposits. (Loess is the silty material blanketing the uplands supposedly deposited by winds during late Pleistocene.) The soils have weathered to the extent that they are medium to very strongly acid in the rooting zone unless heavily limed. They have excellent rooting depth, friable loam surfaces and a moderate level of natural fertility."

The beautiful boxwood which grows so well in this southeast Missouri region is represented in the Edgar Anderson boxwood collection at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis by *Buxus sempervirens* L. 'Sainte Genevieve,' first boxwood to be registered by the Garden, as well as by several unnamed clones. Planting of the Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden — to be called the "Edgar Anderson Boxwood Walk" in fond recollection of the many botanical walks led by Dr. Anderson — is to begin in 1975.



Visitors to the Weber farm and nursery enjoy boxwood everywhere. Here neatly trimmed plants edge a barn lot where farming equipment is parked when not in use. Beyond the trees the terrain drops sharply into one of the valleys that lie between the heights of the "river hills."

Photograph, Lucy Mason

# Buxus Sempervirens L. 'Hermann von Schrenk'

Mary A. Gamble

Dr. Hermann von Schrenk (1873 - 1953), for whom this plant is named, was a man of wide interests and extraordinary accomplishments. He was a botanist, a plant pathologist, a pioneer in wood preservation, a forest scientist, forester and lumber engineer. He was a traveler, writer, lecturer, photographer and raconteur. He was also a gardener and conservationist. Unquestionably, his development of the creosote-impregnation method of wood preservation was a significant contribution to the latter cause.

It was in 1904 that Dr. von Schrenk, as pathologist in charge of the Mississippi Valley Laboratory, set up a demonstration of timber testing at the St. Louis World's Fair. Out of this demonstration came the solution to the problem of impregnating lumber with creosote, a process which multiplied fourfold the useful life of railroad ties, then being cut at the rate of 125,000,000 a year, placing a dangerous drain on American forests and a staggering financial burden on the expanding railroads.

Hermann von Schrenk graduated from Cornell University in 1893. He continued his education at Harvard and Washington universities, receiving his doctorate from the latter in St. Louis in 1898. In 1906 he became professor of plant pathology in the Henry Shaw School of Botany of Washington University and in 1907 was appointed plant pathologist for the Missouri Botanical Garden, a post he filled for some 40 years. His interest in railroads, whose officials called him the "wood pickler," and in trees continued throughout his active lifetime. He traveled on passes to farflung timberlands and was one of the last to study the skeleton trunks of the trees that had drowned when the New Madrid earthquake of December 1811 turned Missouri's greatest hardwood forest into a swamp. His favorite tree was said to be the cypress and a stand of these trees at the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum and Nature Reserve at Gray Summit, Missouri, were grown from seed he collected.

As he traveled Dr. von Schrenk continued to ship or bring plant specimens, many rare, to the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Among them was the boxwood being given his name. It was in 1969 that three members of the then new Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society — the late Mr. Clarence Barbre, Mary (Mrs. M. L.) Holekamp and this writer, Mary (Mrs. D. Goodrich) Gamble — visited the Arboretum and had the 'von Schrenks' pointed out to them. Our guide was

the late Mr. Martin R. Bagby, then retired from 30 years as propagator at the Arboretum. He indicated two handsome matched boxwood plants that billowed above a low stone wall near the entrance.

"I well remember coming to work one Monday and finding a bag of boxwood cuttings that Dr. von Schrenk had left on the bench," said Mr. Bagby. "These are two of the plants we propagated from them." Garden records show that in 1937 Dr. von Schrenk brought to the Arboretum 64 cuttings of an unnamed cultivar of *Buxus sempervirens* from Charlottesville, Virginia.

In 1973 a tentative decision was made to name the plant. In 1974 when study group member Jane (Mrs. George E.) Penhale reported after an inspection trip to the Arboretum that the 'von Schrenks' showed no whit of damage from the generally devastating recent winter the decision was taken to proceed with a clone.

Numerous St. Louis area gardens boast a 'von Schrenk,' just as they do a 'Sainte Genevieve.' The plants are similar but there is a subtle difference in color as well as form. *B. sempervirens* 'von Schrenk' falls in Green Group 137-A on the RHS Colour Chart while *B. sempervirens* 'Sainte Genevieve' falls in Green Group 139-A. 'Von Schrenk' forms a mound more evenly proportioned than 'Sainte Genevieve' but that may be a matter of the approximate 20 years difference in the ages of the plants.

In 1909 Hermann von Schrenk married Mary Jane Kimball, member of an old and distinguished St. Louis family. Both were gardeners. In 1914 they purchased a historic house in Florissant, Missouri, near St. Louis. Over the next few years they restored the house built of walnut logs in 1792 for Augustus Alvarez, officer of the Spanish governor of Louisiana. They named their home "Casa Alvarez" and established there one of the notable gardens of the area. John Noyes, prominent St. Louis landscape architect, laid out the design. Both Hermann and Mary von Schrenk worked in the garden but to him it was always "Mary's garden" or "Mrs. von Schrenk's garden." Friends sent plants from all over the world and the gardeners became famous for their ability to combine exotic and native plants and for a succession of seasonal bloom. Mr. Paul A. Kohl, for many years floriculturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, recalls Dr. von Schrenk's interest in delphiniums, not easy to grow in St. Louis. "Each year," he said, "we would send flats of delphinium seedlings out to Florissant where Dr. von Schrenk would set them in his garden."



An article in the Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin (Vol. 17, 1929) tells of Dr. von Schrenk's interest in conifers and records that four from widely separated areas of the world grew side by side in his garden. They were the Colorado red cedar (*Juniperus scopularum*), the Aztec white pine (*Pinus Ayacahuite*), the Midwest's common white pine (*Pinus Strobus*) and the Himalayan white pine (*Pinus excelsa*). Dr. von Schrenk considered that the success of such plants in our climate depended upon the care with which the gardener established them. His directions for planting, given in this article, would seem to apply to conifers and boxwood alike. They were:

"Use specimen not over four feet in height, 'balled and burlapped' at the nursery. Leave the burlap on the roots when planting. Plant in the early spring, by the middle of March. Dig a generous hole for the tree, eight or ten inches larger each way than the balled roots. Fill in with ordinary loam but do not tramp down the soil. Use the garden hose and wash the soil into place. After a day or two, when the soil has settled down, untie the cords which hold the ends of the burlap about the base of the trunk. Mulch the surface well with straw or leaves. Water generously throughout the first summer — at least one good watering a week. When watering arrange the mulch in a low-shaped ridge to help hold the water." A favored mulch with the von Schrencks was a mold of leaves (allowed to age over the winter in wooden bins) from the maples that blourished in the fertile Florissant valley.

Many summer weddings were held in the beautiful gardens of "Casa Alvarez." The trees and shrubbery, including masses of boxwood, formed a verdant and serene background for the social gatherings in which Hermann and Mary von Schrenk delighted. One such gathering described by Dr. von Schrenk's biographer, James E. Cronin, seems to capture the essence of this remarkable man.

It was in the summer of 1929 that nearly 40 people sat on the immaculate lawn of "Casa Alvarez" throughout the night. They were watching the transformation of locusts which shed their burrowing equipment as they came out of the soil and metamorphosed into winged creatures. In preparation for the vigil Dr. von Schrenk had installed special lighting to make the lawn as bright as day. All through the night he lectured on the locusts, holding his audience spellbound with his knowledge and skill with words.

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Above: This life-sized sprig of *B. sempervirens* L. 'Hermann von Schrenk' shows the leaves to consistently medium ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch in length) size; narrowly elliptic and uniformly acute in shape. Their color is a bright, medium green, falling in Green Group 137-A on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.

Photograph, J. C. Horner

NEW CULTIVAR ACCEPTED FOR  
REGISTRATION

*Buxus sempervirens* L. 'Herman von Schrenk'

This boxwood was propagated from a cutting (one of 64) of an unnamed *Buxus sempervirens* cultivar brought from Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1937 by Dr. Hermann von Schrenk (1873-1953).

The cutting was rooted in a greenhouse at the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum at Gray Summit, Mo. In 1974 there are a number of plants propagated at the same time growing at the Arboretum. The parent plant at 36 years forms a semispherical mound 8 feet tall by 10 1/2 feet wide. Its manner of growth is upward. Its foliage is dense and bright, medium green, falling in Green Group 137-A on the Royal Horticultural Chart. The leaves are of a consistent medium size, measuring from 1/2 to 1 inch in length. They are narrowly elliptic to elliptic and uniformly acute. The plant has been observed for a number of years. It has not shown any significant winter damage; it blooms profusely with a concentration on the plant's sunny side. Cuttings root readily.

This cultivar is named in honor of Dr. Herman von Schrenk, associated with the Missouri Botanical Garden as a plant pathologist for 40 years.

Dr. Burdette L. Wagenknecht  
Registrar for Cultivars in the Genus *Buxus*

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP  
MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. Date of Filing: October 31, 1974.
2. Title of Publication: The Boxwood Bulletin.
3. Frequency of issue: Quarterly.
4. Location of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, zip code): Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia, 22620.
5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publishers (Not printers): The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia, 22620.
6. Names and Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher, The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia, 22620; Editor, Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Winchester, Virginia, 22601.
7. Owner: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other incorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual, must be given.) Name, The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia, 22620 (Incorporated; Non-stock, non-profit organization.)
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgages, and other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 percent or more of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state): None.

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THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

# INFORMATION

Address; Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

## DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now \$5.00. This includes a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin*, to the publication of which the Society allots about 2/3 of the money received from dues.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are \$5.00 a year, and run by the calendar year.

The Boxwood Society year runs from one Annual Meeting to the next; from May of one year to May of the next year. Those joining the Society at other times are sent all the *Boxwood Bulletin* issues for the current Society year, beginning with the July number. Their dues are then again due and payable in the following May. This was voted by the Society in order to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Secretary-Treasurer.

Price per single copy \$1.25 plus 5¢ postage to members; \$1.50 plus 5¢ postage to non-members. Orders of five or more copies are sent postpaid. At the present time any or all *Bulletins* are available, back to Vol. 1, No. 1 (Vol. 1 consists of three issues only, there was no Vol. 1, No. 4.)

Besides regular membership dues at \$5.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, \$10.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$100.00; and Patron, \$500.00.

Gift memberships are announced to the recipients by boxwood-decorated cards which carry the information that *The Boxwood Bulletin* will come as your gift four times a year.

Members of The American Boxwood Society are reminded of the 1968 IRS decision that contributions to and for the use of the Society, are deductible by donors as provided in Section 170 of the Code.



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Regular membership dues at \$5.00 per year.

All membership correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby, Secretary-Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society, Box 85, Boyce, Virginia, 22620.