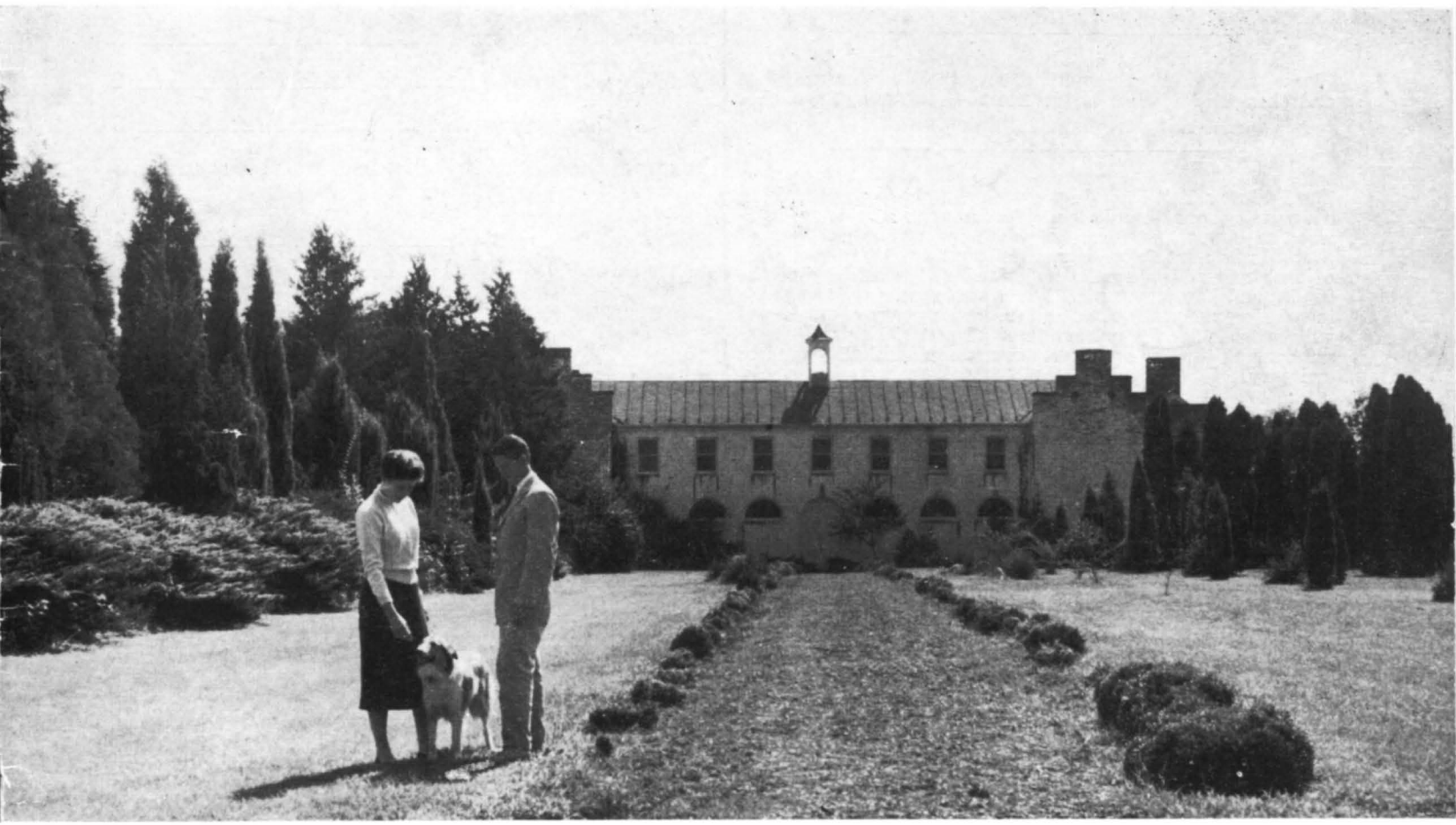
OCTOBER 1961

The Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



WALK BORDERED BY THIRTY-YEAR-OLD TRUE DWARF BOXWOOD
At the Administration Building, Blandy Experimental Farm
Headquarters of American Boxwood Society (See Page 1)

Boyce, Va. Vol. 1, No. 1

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

The Editors solicit and will welcome contributions of articles, news notes, photographs suitable for reproduction, of boxwood specimens, gardens, and plantings, and other items of probable interest to readers. It is requested that every item of such material carry the name and return address of the sender and be accompanied by an addressed envelope carrying the proper postage for return. While every effort always will be made for the protection of all material submitted for publication, the Editors cannot assume responsibility for loss or injury.

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

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The Boxwood Bulletin

October 1961 Vol. 1, No.1

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The Boxwood Bulletin does not accept responsibility for opinions of contributors, confusion of taxonomical advisers, lapses of biological experts, oversights of the Editorial Board, — or injury to boxwood, whether demonstrably man-made or definitely due to cats, dogs, or winter kill. It only accepts responsibility for permitting them to air their errors, shortcomings, bad habits, and climatic malevolence in full public view.

FRONT COVER

This boxwood, *Buxus microphylla koreana nana*, first set out at the arboretum in 1935 and moved to its present position has not proved entirely hardy, 12 miles from Winchester, Va. None of it is more than 18 inches high. In the foreground (left) Dr. Gertrude Earle Jones and Dr. Walter H. Lewis, Ass. Prof. of Biology at Stephen Austin State College, both of whom did their research and wrote their doctorate theses at Blandy.

The Boxwood Bulletin

As this first issue of the Boxwood Bulletin goes to press our Society membership consists of those persons whose names are listed on the roster that concludes this publication. It is an enthusiastic group that can share questions, experiences, and knowledge concerning Boxwood to the benefit and advantage of all.

Our annual meeting, to be held near the first of May each year, will be a time for the oral exchange of experiences with boxwood in a friendly gathering and scientific environment. This Bulletin will be a chief medium for giving and receiving information concerning anything that affects, or pertains to, boxwood, in the periods between annual meetings.

It is planned to publish four Bulletins each year —in the quarters beginning in October, January, April, and July. It will be our objective to have the April issue correspond somewhat to a yearbook of as generous size as our funds will permit, with the other three numbers being much more modest. The extensiveness of the Bulletin, as well as of the other activities of the Society, necessarially will be governed by the funds available from membership dues. In this connection the debt of all regular Members to the generosity of our Patron, Life, Sustaining, and Contributing Members, is appreciatively acknowledged.

The first Bulletin has been put together by the officers of the Society. An editorial staff of members interested in this phase is being sought. A number of features for future numbers already are available or promised — one of these being the important registration list of Boxwood Cultivars, developed by Dr. Wagenknecht while he was at the Arnold Arboretum. It has become apparent that the problem is not going to be finding material for our Bulletin, but rather selecting among the available material and condensing and fitting it into the space available.

Our Membership Goal

There is a total of 404 Charter Members of the American Boxwood Society. Of this number, 283 are from 90 different towns and counties in Virginia, 15 from Washington, D. C., and 106 divided between 31 States in addition to Virginia. There are members from all but two States—Vermont and Wisconsin—east of the Mississippi River and from 8 States west of it.

We have not had time to scratch the surface in Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Long Island where there are so many notable boxwood gardens, plantings, and specimens. In these States alone there must be a thousand or more owners who would be interested in our Society and its purposes. There are probably as many unsolicited and uninformed, prospective members in Virginia. If only we knew their names and addresses and could inform them, we surely in most instances would gain their cooperation.

We read even in this issue of the quantities of boxwood along the West Coast, but from Washington and California we have very few members and from Oregon none. A member from northern New England tells us about the large amounts in Texas of *Buxux sempervirens variegata elegantissima,* so rare throughout most of the world; but we cannot arouse so much as a peep from the Lone Star State—and are contemplating turning our efforts to Alaska instead.

Our ability to publish useful bulletins and handsome annuals with a long series of illustrated accounts of interesting and lovely boxwood gardens in this country and abroad depends entirely upon the size of our membership. And that in turn depends upon the really interested cooperation of our four hundred Charter Members

No more than six of these founding members are responsible for no less than 90% or 360 of our present membership. They obtained it solely by their initiative and their labors, by seeing and telephoning and writing those friends and acquaintances whom they believed might make suitable and interested members. One of our founders personally brought in approximately eighty others. Certainly then, each one of us presently enrolled in this Boxwood "Four Hundred" can bring in a mere four other members. And that accomplishment will make our Society a lasting, constructive, conspicous success. It will insure yearbooks that will constitute handsome additions to our libraries.

Four new members each: that is our goal.

It is the most important one that as a Society we ever shall have. It is the only call for material assistance that we shall ever make and the only kind of assistance that we wish. As a non-profit, scientific and educational journal, produced by unpaid volunteers, the Boxwood Bulletin, we are not abashed to say, merits the cooperation of each member in obtaining four new members whom we likewise may serve. It is not an immodest or greedy request.

As acknowledgement of this first effort by your officers to print the Boxwood Bulletin, inadequate and unsatisfactory as you may find that effort, please do your part, too, by seeing that some acquaintance who also fancies boxwood makes out and without fail sends to us an application for membership in the American Boxwood Society which covers a subscription to the Boxwood Bulletin.

A Boxwood Museum

It has been suggested that the American Boxwood Society have as one objective the establishment of a "Boxwood Museum." The thought is that this museum be composed of: (1) a collection of all hardy and adapted *Buxus* species and cultivars; (2) a library collection of books and articles dealing with the group; and (3) eventually a collection of pressed, mounted and named dried herbarium specimens—taken from and based on the living collection. All material in the museum would be available to all Society members at any time.

The Orland E. White Research Arboretum, at the Blandy Experimental Farm has long been interested in and working toward the living and the library collections for these plants. Our Boxwood Society has its headquarters at that institution. The development of this suggested museum would seem a worthy objective for the Society, and the present Blandy collections are now available as a nucleus for the proposed museum.

Organizational Meeting of the American Boxwood Society

A letter of March 24, 1961, from J. Churchill Newcomb issued "the call" for an organizational meeting of our then incipient society, and pointed out the advantages of a cooperative attack on a group of plants widely grown in this area.

Prospective members started gathering at Blandy before 10 A.M. on May 2. Plant, book, and other boxwood exhibits were viewed in the library and laboratories. The remainder of the morning was spent in tours of the boxwood and other plantings, and of the radiation facility and laboratories.

By noon 86 members had signed the register, and altogether approximately 100 were present for lunch and the organizational meeting. They came from 35 Virginia communities, from Washington D. C., from Maryland and a couple of other States.

A luncheon that featured our president's Planter's Punch, and the Kentucky fried chicken appeared to be enjoyed by all present.

The formal program, which began about 2 p.m., was presided over by Mr. Newcomb and was composed of the following several parts:

1. Remarks by the Chairman.
2. Welcome by Dr. W. Ralph Singleton, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm.
3. Dr. Freeman Weiss (Curator American Type Culture Collection; formerly Plant Pathologist, U.S.D.A.), "Protection of Boxwood Against Known Pests."
4. Dr. B. L. Wagenknecht, Horticultural Taxonomist, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Cultivars of Box, and the Boxwood Registration Program."
5. Consideration of "Honorary Life Member" recommendations, at which time five were elected to such membership.
6. Mr. Sylvester Marsh, The National Arboretum, "Winter Injury of Box, and Its Correction."
7. Calling of attention to the fine collection of species and varieties of *Buxus* that were on display as gifts from the National Arboretum (these were formally presented to Mr. Flory by Mr. Marsh), from Mr. Henry Hohman of the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, and from the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.
8. Professor A. G. Smith, (Landscape Consultant; for many years Horticulturist with Virginia Polytechnic Institute), "Some Experiences with Boxwood."
9. Election of officers as follows:
   President: J. Churchill Newcomb, Purcellville, Va.
   1st V. P.: W. Ralph Singleton, Miller Professor of Biology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
   2nd V. P.: Mrs. Thomas De Lashmutt, "Oak Hill", Aldie, Va.
   Secretary: Mrs. Clay B. Carr, Boyce, Va.
   Treasurer: Walter S. Flory, Curator, Orland E. White Research Arboretum, Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Va.
   Directors: Mrs. Orme Wilson, ("The Tuleyries", Boyce, Va.), Washington, D. C.
   J. T. Baldwin, Head, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
   Henry T. Skinner, Director, The National Arboretum, Washington, D. C.
   A. G. Smith, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Retired, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.
   Christopher Stuart, M. D., Winchester, Va.
   J. B. Wilson, Plant Pathologist, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
10. Adoption of a temporary, working, constitution.
11. Appointment of committees.

Saving The Bulletins

Save your copies of the Boxwood Bulletin. The purpose of the three holes punched on the lefthand side of the Bulletin is to provide means for preserving all the issues safely and conveniently together in a three-ring, loose-leaf note book. The roster of Charter Members in Volume I, Number I, in all likelihood never again will be published. It is an invaluable directory of the names and addresses of the majority of persons in this country most interested in boxwood.

Books on Boxwood

One mission of the American Boxwood Society is to discover, list, and, where feasible, obtain all books, brochures, articles, and catalogues devoted in large or important part to boxwood. The editor and through him the Library Committee will be most grateful to other members for information on the titles, names of authors, and whereabouts of all such material.

With regard to the rarity of the small amount of material on boxwood ever printed in this country, that gigantic collection of many volumed sets, ponderous tomes, and diversified pamphlets of the Library of Congress, second or first now in size in all the world, contains but two works devoted exclusively to this subject. One is *Boxwood Gardens, Old and New* by Albert Addison Lewis, 1924, concerned only with the plant as an ornamental. And the other is *Boxwoods* by S. J. Record and G. A. Garrett, the Yale University Press, 1925, a scholarly treatment of its horticultural aspects and its past and present uses commercially. A third rare little tract in the stacks of this library is *A Boxwood Triptych,* issued in 1927 by the Hispanic Society of America and limited to consideration of a particular medieval boxwood carving with a couple of introductory pages on the history of box in wood carving and its place as a favorite medium in ancient art. That is all. They are today in the domain of the collector.

It is true that, in spite of this surprising void in the shelves of the Library of Congress, boxwood is better represented in the great libraries of Britain and France and even in some of the smaller libraries of the United States but, nevertheless, the dearth of published material devoted exclusively to it should be a tip to possessors of the first numbers of the Boxwood Bulletin to file their numbers away.

Gifts To The Society

A particularly popular feature at the formative meeting of the American Boxwood Society was a display of potted boxwood types. These thirty-three plants, exhibited on tables in one of the rooms of the Administration Building at the Blandy Experimental Farm, are the gifts of three generous benefactors and strong backers of the Society.

Dr. Walter Flory, Curator of the Orland E. White Research Arboretum, with the unstinted help of Dr. B. L. Wagenknecht, of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, spent many hours setting up the first boxwood show in this country. Subsequently Dr. Flory removed the young plants to conveniently placed beds where they will be guarded and grown out until transplanted to other situations in which it is proposed they should remain on display—until, at least, our regular annual meeting in the year 2,261 or some centuries thereafter.

The following *Buxus* species and varieties were presented to the Society by the Arnold Arboretum:

Buxus chinensis
" himalayensis
" microphylla sinica
" sempervirens argentea
" " elegantissima
" " glauca
" " latifolia
" " longifolia
" " myosotifolia
" " nana
" " navicularis
" " pendula
" " prostrata
" " pyramidalis
" " salicifolia
" " arborescens undulifolia
" " arborescens decussata
" fortunei rotundifolia
" latifolia bullata
" " macrophylla
" " maculata
" " marginata
" " nova
" ponteyi
" salicifolia elata

All of these plants are propagations of material from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

Other *Buxus* types, given to the Society by the National Arboretum, Washington D. C., and presented by Mr. Silvester G. March of its staff are:

Buxus microphylla japonica "Morris Dwarf"
" sempervirens elegantissima
" " rosmarinifolia
" wallichiana

Additional *Buxus* species and types came as a gift of Mr. Henry Hohman, owner of the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, and are as follows:

Buxus balearica
" microphylla "Green Pillow"
" sempervirens rosmarinifolia
" " "Vardar Valley."

Though members who never before had seen *sempervirens rosmarinifolia* expressed astonishment, "Green Pillow" drew the most attention.

Where Connecticut and Rhode Island Meet

By Mrs. John Merritt

Much of the shoreline of Connecticut is protected from the ocean by Long Island, and this past winter was exceptionally warm and open at the start, even up to sometime in December. Then about the middle of that month there came much snow and bitter cold, one of the longest cold waves on record.

Plants covered by the deep snow were protected from the sun and winds. But the winter kill of most everything above the snow, including boxwood, was severe.

Specifically, of my own box, a large portion of one browned and much of it had to be cut out. But it has since shaped up and compensated for the hole with new growth, and is doing well. The little ones were under the snow; and I plan to plant more.

When as president of our local garden club, I attended our State meeting at Bridgeport, early in October, I made a point of asking about boxwood. Rudy Favretti, author of the recent book *Growing for Showing,* Garden Specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Connecticut, and popular lecturer all over the State, summed it up pretty well: "Winter kill last year was severe on everything, especially dogwood. And boxwood should have protection here. It does very well along the coast, for winter kill is not too bad along our shore." And he added that I should tell members of the American Boxwood Society that, when well nourished, it does not kill as badly.

In my limited observation boxwood is popular in this area at places such as Watch Hill, R. I., where owners spend only the summer in residence and do not mind having their boxwood covered by protecting frames when their houses are closed for the winter.

Coming on down the coast, there are some lovely box bushes at old homes in Stonington, Conn.; and the Mystic Museum has large boxwoods on either side of the Mallory Building door, but they, too, are covered all winter, since the roof drips and snow slides down on them. I visited the Harkness Memorial State Park, for the handicapped on the water at Goshen Point, five miles south of New London, and toured the spacious formal gardens where I found men clipping the many boxwoods — to keep them from obstructing the spectacular view of Long Island Sound. All the boxwood there looked green and healthy.

Incidentally, the six or eight large greenhouses at Harkness provide flowers occasionally for the Governor's Mansion at Hartford and for all State functions. I never saw so many hundreds of fuchsias, small ones up to tree fuchsias. Also there were many boxwoods in pots.

At our meeting, across the table from me was a retired gentleman who had been superintendent of the city streets at New Haven or Hartford but now lives at Cheshire. He thought the winter kill of boxwood in Connecticut had been bad in '60-'61 but hoped people would keep on planting it and provide protection where needed. We discussed the need for more information as to how best to plant, the care

(Continued on Page 8)

BOXWOOD IN VIRGINIA

By A. G. Smith, Jr.

Associate Horticulturist Emertus, V. P. I.

VALUABLE and TOUGH

Boxwood in its various forms is a valuable ornamental plant in Virginia. Many specimens known to be more than 100 years old are growing in the State.

Contrary to general belief, boxwood is a vigorous plant. In good soil it requires but little care. Its development varies with the species or variety and with the conditions under which it is growing.

DISEASES NOT IMPORTANT

No diseases of importance affect boxwood in Virginia; however, numerous fungi may be found on leaves and stems after these parts have been weakened or killed by other causes. In a Blacksburg yard there is a hedge of tree boxwood, and a number of good dwarf plants, all of which were grown from twigs thought to be diseased. These twigs, from various sections of Virginia, were sent to V. P. I. for help in identifying and controlling the diseases.

TROUBLES

A study of many thousands of boxwood plants in Virginia shows that, with rare exception, all the boxwood troubles in the State result from one or more of the following causes:

ROOTS

I. Damage to the roots by:

1. Digging in the root area by man or animals.
2. Planting too deeply or settling later.
3. Applying excessive amounts of fertilizer or manure.
4. Making a cone of soil or mulch around the plant.
5. Setting plants in holes in tight soil with no drainage provided from bottom or side.
6. Soil washing away from roots, thus exposing them to the elements.
7. Mulching too heavily.
8. Too much peat or manure in fill-in soil.
10. Heavy soil which does not allow water to move away from roots. Poor preparation.
11. Excessive watering.
12. Matting of ivy in and under plant.

LEAVES

II. Damage to leaves and branches by:

1. Leaf miners.
2. Accumulation of soot and dust on foliage; effect of smoke and gases.
3. Crowding by other plants or buildings.
4. Chemical sprays.
5. Dead leaves accumulating in dwarf plants.
6. Clipping alone to maintain formal effects instead of cutting out weak top branches to admit light and air.
7. Winter-killing.
8. Sunscald and browning on weak plants.
9. Injury from sleet or snow, bending or breaking the branches. (Frost killing tender tips does more good than harm.)

WHOLE PLANT

III. Damage to entire plant by:

1. Total lack of water.
2. Too much shade.
3. Wet feet.
4. Salt from coastal storms or from well water.

MAN-MADE

Most boxwood troubles are man-made. In a fairly good environment this grand old plant can take care of itself, as long as it is not attacked by leaf miners.

BAD FOR ROOTS

Many yards have been filled with soil from basements. The grading is often done when the soil is muddy. The soil bakes in dry weather and stays wet and soggy in wet seasons. Boxwood is not likely to thrive under these conditions or in a pipe-clay soil, unless care is taken to prepare ample space for the plant and provide drainage from the side or bottom of the hole.

WET FEET

Boxwood cannot stand wet feet.

SUN and SHADE

Boxwood will tolerate shade but will make a stronger growth where it has sunlight, for at least part of the day. Morning sun in winter may cause damage by rapid thawing of the leaves and branches. Winter sun may also turn exposed leaves reddish brown or yellow on plants which have been checked in growth. This condition is not caused by a disease.

FEEDING

It is not necessary to fertilize boxwood every year. Its requirements vary widely depending on the type of boxwood used, the soil, and growing conditions. Over-feeding may injure the plants or lead to excessive pruning to keep the plants within bounds. It may also keep the boxwood tender until winter when a sudden drop in temperature could cause serious winter killing (See Wilt). Then, too, fertilizer can kill the plants when too much is used.

A very light application of poultry manure and bonemeal may be scattered over the root area in February or March, if the condition of the plant indicates that plant food is really needed. Where the above materials are not available, a fertilizer such at 6-8-2 or 10-6-4 might be used at the rate of ¼ cupful on a square yard of root area.

Applications of fertilizer cannot correct a bad physical condition in the soil.

Often it is best not to fertilize the boxwood at all.

SKIP IT pH and LIME

Boxwood grows well in many different soils with varying pH levels. When sufficient humus is present and the soil is in good mechanical condition, boxwood will thrive at a pH range of 5.5 to 7.4. Small applications of ground limestone may be used on the more acid soils, once in 3 or 4 years.

PRUNING

The pruning of boxwood may be an important operation for the following reasons:

1. To keep the plants at the desired size.
2. To improve the appearance and condition of a plant which is thin at the top.
3. To develop a strong framework against damage from snow and wind.

THINNING

Start by removing weak and crowded branches from the top center of the plant. Where necessary shorten the larger branches. Continue this thinning over the entire upper half of the plant.

Very heavy cutting should be done in the spring. Ordinary pruning may be done whenever it is most convenient.

CLIPPING

If clipping must be done to get a formal effect, thin as suggested above to encourage growth on the inside branches.

When boxwood is growing where its size and form do not matter, it may go indefinitely without pruning. There are many fine specimens in Virginia which have never been pruned.

TRANS-PLANTING

SHADING

Boxwood may be moved at any time of the year, but it is best not to transplant it when it is making tender growth. It is sometimes best to shade large boxwood after it is transplanted. Strips placed well above the foliage will protect the plants from direct sun and snow.

PREPARE SAME DEPTH

Prepare the place for the new plant with care. Provide ample drainage at the roots. In very low places set the plant slightly above the level of the ground. Otherwise plant as near the original depth as possible.

WARNING

Never put manure, compost, or other organic material under the boxwood. If used, the plant will settle as the organic matter rots; finally it will be too deep for normal growth.

FILL-IN

Set the plant on firm ground. Then fill in around the side and tamp gently. Fill the last six inches with good garden soil or with a mixture such as:

SOIL MIXTURE

¼ part old rotted manure or compost
½ part loamy top soil
¼ part coarse sand and peat
¼ cup of garden fertilizer such as 10-6-4 to each bushel.

MIX

Turn these materials over until they are uniformly mixed.

WATER THE PLANT, NOT THE HOLE

Water by letting the hose run very slowly at the base of the boxwood itself — not in the hole around it.

Do not over-water.

SYRINGE

Tap-water syringes, two or three times a week in warm weather, will take care of later needs for water.

LEVEL

Leave the ground level over the root system and beyond.

MULCH

A mulch of peat, sawdust, or peanut hulls, not more than one inch deep, helps to save moisture and control soil temperature.

SYMPTOMS

Some symptoms of weakness in boxwood are:

1. Reddish foliage in winter.
2. A heavy crop of flowers and/or seed.
3. Dull appearance of leaves on part or all of the plant.
4. Dead twigs.
5. Thin growth.

LEAF MINERS

6. Puckered spots or blisters on the under side of leaves. If caused by leaf miners, the tiny lemon colored grubs will be found in the blisters.

If no leaf miners are present, the cause of the trouble will be found, in practically all cases, at the ground under and near the plants. (See paragraph 4 for list of causes.)

WAIT

Don't worry about diseases. Locate the cause of the trouble and correct it, if it is not too late. Then wait patiently until the boxwood has time to recover.

EFFECTS of INJURY

Boxwood may not show the effects of injury until six months or longer after the injury occurs. It may take much longer for large branches to die after the roots are cut. A spell of bad weather such as drought or blizzard usually shortens this period.

BOXWOOD COMPETES

Boxwood can compete successfully with wiregrass and other grasses and weeds, if these plants are mowed. Any attempt to dig these grasses out will injure the boxwood roots. Only a part of a boxwood plant may be weakened or killed when a part of its root system is damaged. Injury of this nature may be seen in almost any cultivated flower border which is edged with dwarf boxwood.

ROOTS — BRANCHES

SERIOUS PEST

The leaf miner is the only serious pest of boxwood. This insect is found on many types of tree boxwood, while the full dwarf forms appear to be immune.

KILL THEM

Leaf miners may be killed by spraying all the leaves, inside and outside the plant, about one week before the miners emerge as tiny, adult flies. Use one ounce of 50% wettable DDT powder in 3 gallons of water. Repeat the treatment after 2 weeks, and again later if flies are seen.

Malathion might be used as directed by the manufacturer instead of DDT. However, this material would have to be applied more frequently than DDT.

DDT MAY LEAD TO MITES

DDT kills the insects which normally eat mites (red spiders) but does not harm the mites. It is best, therefore, to take special steps to control mites on boxwood, after the last application of DDT had had the desired effect on the leaf miners.

USE TAP WATER

Mites may be controlled by syringing the boxwood with tap-water several times during spring and summer. Apply the water with the hose nozzle in late afternoon. Wash the leaves on the inside and outside of the plant. Let the foliage stay wet overnight. Mites cannot multiply under such conditions.

WASHING

The washing will remove soot and dust and will not only improve the appearance of the boxwood but will also let the leaves breathe more normally.

In severe cases, where tap water cannot be used, the mites could be killed with a mitecide such as aramite, if used as directed by the manufacturer.

RATHER HARMLESS

Psyllids are whitish sucking insects which feed on the tender growth and cause the leaves to curl. They disfigure the plant but cause no real injury. They may be killed by spraying or dusting the plants with nicotine

or malathion about May 25 in eastern Virginia and around June 8 in western Virginia. Use the materials as directed on container.

NEMATODES

Nematodes are found on or about the roots of boxwood, especially in sandy soil and in soils low in humus. In well-drained soil, containing a reasonable amount of humus, the nematodes will cause no serious injury to boxwood.

THEY RECOVER

The author has dug dwarf boxwood with yellowish foliage from sites reported to be infested with nematodes, and planted them, nematodes and all, in good soil. After 3 to 8 months, depending on the size of the plant and season, these plants developed normal color and have made good speciments.

WILT NOT BAD

Wilt or blue stem may follow winter injury on the tender terminal twigs. The injured or girdled part of the stem usually occurs about 6 to 8 inches from the tip on tree boxwood, and about 3 to 5 inches on dwarf types.

For the sake of appearance, these twigs with reddish, yellow or dead leaves may be removed. If left on the plant no harm whatever would result.

HISTORY

Boxwood is native to East Asia, North Africa, and Southern Europe, and also occurs to a lesser extent in West India and in Central America. There is no American boxwood and none native to England which are used as ornamental plants.

Buxus sempervirens is the common tree box, while *Buxus sempervirens var. suffructicosa* is the one commonly referred to as Dwarf Boxwood or English Boxwood.

Among the thirty-odd other known species of *Buxus* are *japonica, microphylla, balearica, fortunei, harlandii,* and *wallachiana.*

MANY VARIATIONS

Variations in boxwood are without number. In Virginia there are many thousands of different strains or varieties of boxwood. It is probable that each of these came from an individual seed at some time in the past.

SEEDLINGS

The author has grown more than 5,000 boxwood from seed at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Blacksburg. No two of them were exactly alike. Some were vigorous and upright, some were dwarf in habit, while most of them were "intermediates." Approximately 800 of these seedlings are now growing in the V. P. I. Arboretum.

RESISTANCE TO COLD

Following the severe winter of 1935, a block containing about 1,200 three-foot boxwood was examined in a Virginia nursery. Half of the plants had been propagated from cuttings taken from a plant purchased in one community. The rest was propagated from a different plant growing about 35 miles from the first community. The severe weather killed all the plants from one community while thase from the other were green. Although the two parent plants looked alike, they varied in their resistance to cold.

PROPAGATION

Boxwood may readily be propagated from cuttings. These will root at almost any time of the year. For outdoor rooting, place the cuttings in sand or in sandy soil from July 15 to September 15. Protect from direct sunshine and from wind. Keep the bed moist. If cutting wood is abundant, make cuttings 6 inches long for dwarf box and 8 to 10 inches for tree types. Small cuttings may be put in a greenhouse or in cold frames as late as December.

The author of the foregoing article, A. G. Smith, Jr., Associate Horticulturist Emeritus at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, is one of the founders and a Director of the American Boxwood Society. At its preliminary organizational meeting he delivered an iconoclastic, highly amusing, and enthusiastically received address, ribbing taxonomists for the baffling confusion in boxwood nomenclature, imploring Garden-Clubbers not to smother boxwood or cultivate it to death with kindness, charging pathologists with chemical warfare against its survival, and ruefully confessing his own costly transgressions in the arrogant ignorance of less experienced years. He estimates that he has planted, raised, and cared for more than 10,000 specimens of boxwood, including an unspecified number that he admits long ago he plain did to death.

He makes his home in Blacksburg, Va., and is an authority on the care of boxwood, a writer on horticultural subjects, and professionally a popular lecturer and endlessly active and migratory "Consultant on Landscape Problems." Originally he prepared the substance of this article for publication by the Extension Service of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. It has been revised and reprinted several times, lastly in Oct., 1959 as Circular 503 in pamphlet form.

Where Connecticut and Rhode Island Meet

(Continued from Page 3)

to produce best results, and the desirability of a better understanding of exposure, protection, and so forth. Heavy snows that bend all evergreens cause damage during freezing weather. And all of us agreed that "dog damage" is the worse problem. There is no use planting boxwood along a street.

Mrs. Hanas, an experienced Garden Club member and now a State officer, who was sitting beside me, has a fifth generation boxwood from a clipping given her mother by a gardener who was trimming the box at *Monticello*. She said she had success growing out cuttings by putting them in the ground under a protecting evergreen until they were well established. When she later moved them she found that 80% survived but that of cuttings started in a friend's greenhouse only 30% survived when finally moved outside. She believed further that each successive generation of her boxwood showed greater resistance to the cold of New England.

Mrs. Hanas was interested to learn that I knew Mrs. Nettleton, of Covington, Va., who is now the National President of the Federated Garden Clubs and that she, too, is a Charter Member of the American Boxwood Society. I am looking forward with great hope to our Society. Its establishment fills such a need. We would like to plant more boxwood here but I realize that I must know more about the varieties, the care of boxwood, and where to buy it. I wished to give my sister some for her new house at Princeton, New Jersey, but a nurseryman there would not guarantee it, saying the weather was against it and that it had a blight.

The stone walls and white clapboard houses around here reflect light and heat. This function can be good or bad, depending upon the sun and wind exposure. I wish I understood that, too. I would like to recommend boxwood for our local school's foundation planting.

Comments Concerning Habitat and Hardiness

Hardy Types in Southeast Michigan

"We have two hardy types in Michigan . . . . . Of course, our box only grows to about two feet but it seems to withstand the coldest winters — of ten below zero.

"I hope the Society has great success in future plans. Congratulations to all those who started it."

Mrs. Howard F. Smith, Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Japanese Box for South Arkansas

". . . . . most boxwood does not thrive this far South. I have tried both 'American' and 'English' boxwood with poor results, but I am successful with Japanese box.

Mrs. Rufus N. Garrett, El Dorado, Ark.
(*Member Stratford Hall Garden Committee*)

From 120 Miles up the Hudson

"There are specimens of the 'English' boxwood in my garden here in Saugerties which were here when we bought the house fourteen years ago. We moved them and covered them during January, February, and March each winter. They have thrived and survived the winters, including temperatures to -20° F. They are not large, the largest being about three feet. Others are thirty inches.

"There are specimens of the same in Kingston, twelve miles south of here. Some of these did not survive this past winter, one of our worst.

"In our garden here, we also have beds bordered with the variety myrtifolia. When we wanted to plant them, Bobbink & Atkins, nurserymen of Rutherford, N. J., since out of business, declared the 'English' type would not live up here and would not believe me when I said there were some already here and thriving. They insisted that we buy myrtifolis which has been satisfactory until this year when the top of it burned badly. It also grows so fast that it must be clipped several times during the year."

Mrs. J. P. Remensnyder, Saugerties, New York.
(*The Ulster Garden Club*)

Infrequency of Boxwood in Hawaii

"Very little, if any, boxwood is grown in Hawaii. I have no recollection of seeing it anywhere, although some may be grown in higher elevations and cooler temperatures. At our membership meeting . . . . . I was able to enquire of the group . . . . . Only two persons responded. One has a Japanese or Korean box potted as a bonsai and the other has a similar plant in the ground. Both report them to be slow growing.

"Inquiry has also been made of two horticulture experts, one of our outstanding landscape architects, a professor of botany at the University of Hawaii, and a botanist at the herbarium of the Bishop Museum. All have the opinion that box is very rarely seen here. Some had not seen any.

"We have a number of easily grown plants which fill uses in our gardens similar to your use of boxwood. Murraya exotica is one of these. We use privet which grows luxuriously, vitex, carissa, pittas, porum Surinam cherry (eugenia uniflora) to mention some of the best. For trimmed hedges and shaped trees we use ironwood, which is called sheoak in some areas, very successfully."

Mrs. C. Dudley Pratt, Honolulu, Hawaii.
(*Pres., Garden Club of Honolulu*)

Bad Winter in Southwest Pennsylvania

"You say you hope the winter kill has not been as severe here as in your part of Virginia. I am afraid it is even more severe . . . . . We have recently cut out all of the dead parts and have fertilized, what are in many instances, the pitiful remnants."

Mrs. Frank H. Griffin, Wawa, Pennsylvania,
(*Pres., Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation*, Owners of Stratford Hall).

Box on the Gulf of Mexico

"In this part of the world there are no boxwood gardens. Buxus sempervirens and its clones [plants not propagated by seeds but by vegative means such as cuttings and, therefore, having the same genetic composition and inherited characteristics as the original stock] are 'said' not to do well. Like many other generalizations, that is not too valid. I have a few plants here, more by accident than design, and they are all right.

"The common boxwood of the area is the Japanese form of Korea. It apparently 'can take it.'

"Next most common is Harlandi.

"As we do not need box for evergreen edgings or hedges with all the other broad leaved evergreens that can be grown, I can only suppose that no effort has been made to see what will do.

"I suspect but do not *know* that you will not find any boxwood of any importance until you are in the northernmost part of the State."

Mr. B. Y. Morrison, Pass Christian, Miss.

Injury at Huntington, Long Island

. . . "Practically all the English boxwoods, I know of, around here have suffered, some badly, from last winter. In every case necremia canker was the cause. Branches turning yellow, then white, and the bark peeling off. Even cutting the injured branches and cleaning the boxwoods, other branches get affected, although less and less. I have been told that a spray of copper is recommended but it is probably too late now."

P. L. Rougny, Huntington, Long Island, New York

On Virginia's Eastern Shore

"As far as I can see, box did not suffer any winter kill in Accomac County this last winter. Unlike winter before last, we had no heavy snows to cause bark injury. Some of my box bushes that were spread wide open by heavy, wet snows have not yet fully recovered. As usual many box bushes growing in the sun had, by the end of last winter, a reddish tint but the color of those growing in some shade was unchanged."

Miss Miriam B. Nock, Accomac, Va.

Damage in Northwest Connecticut

"As to how the past severe winter treated my boxwood — *Very badly!* I lots 15 or 20 small plants, six to eight inches high, and great portions of the old box but no complete plants.

"I waited until June 15 to prune and, although I cut out all the dead at that time, every week or so I have to cut out a few branches, which seem to die as the season advances.

Mrs. Frederick E. Mygatt, Washington Depot, Conn.

A Hardy Type in New Hampshire

"Mr. Ernest Colpret has found some native boxwood near here, has made cuttings, and considers it to be hardy. Both Mrs. Fergus Reid, Jr., at York Harbor, Maine, and Mrs. William L. Page, at New Castle, N. H., have boxwood that with tremendous loving care comes through the winter quite well."

Mrs. E. Raymond Childs, Dover, New Hampshire, (*Corres. Sec't., Piscataqua Garden Club*)

A Recurring Question

Do you have any new information on the loss of boxwood as a result of its turning white, more and more until the whole bush is gone?

We have been troubled with this in the formal garden at Randolph Macon Woman's College. First in a very large "Old English Box," then in the smaller ones on the border of the garden. At first I thought heavy snow had caused the trouble and had all of the white branches cut out of the box, about the middle of April. They then looked well until the middle of September when this bleaching of the branches started again and has almost ruined one side of the garden row. It does not seem to have affected the boxwoods that are shaded in the early morning until noon. This may have nothing to do with it but it is a fact.

If this is a fungus can having the boxwoods sprayed help save them? Is it a root disease? I took up a large box that had died this way. It had been six feet across and five feet tall, but the roots were only six or eight inches and not a feeder root had lasted over the year. Everything had been done to plant it properly and water it, for this is the third replacement in this area at considerable cost. And before it has to be done again I'd like any information you may have to offer.

Mrs. E. Bond, *Lynchburg, Va.*

Report on Boxwood from Indiana

There is an increasing interest in boxwoods here, in the area, forty miles north of Indianapolis.

But a twenty-four hour ice storm late in March, or even April, with sunshine following, will cause more damage by *sunscald* than a low temperature. I had my first experience with this in 1945 and lost about a dozen boxwood, each a foot high on the south side of the house.

We never miss the Park School Garden Tour in the spring in Indianapolis, and on that tour I learn many facts. There is very little boxwood, in fact none, in our older gardens, but more is being planted in the gardens of newer estates.

The winter of 1959 had one week of icy-cold storm when the owners of a newly remade garden that had been planted with many boxwoods, 14 to 16 inches high, all sun-scalded, though I would say the garden is fairly well protected. That same year, 1959, near Indianapolis, a young nurseryman had five acres of boxwood all killed. I never saw the field, but I could almost venture to say much of it was from thawing, then heaving. This past winter, 1961, while it was most unusually cold for this section, the winds followed heavy snows which are always a warm blanket for any plants, and as a result very few plants died.

I moved back here from Greenwich, Conn. in 1942, and brought with me many varieties of evergreens and sixteen small *Buxus suffruticosa,* which I had learned to propagate when I took garden club work in the Botanical Gardens in New York. I keep on propagating each summer, until now I have over 300 boxwoods. This is my hobby since I retired from teaching, two years ago. I now have 4 plants, 24 inches high; 36 plants, 16 inches high; 165, 6 inches; 40, 3 years old; and 60, 1 year old, plus this summer's babies.

I am not in the nursery business and I've quit giving boxwoods away to friends who won't trim them or mulch them. I have one friend who wants to plant them on the north side of the house, so I won't give him any or sell him any, either.

In May, I cultivate and fertilize a little; in June, I sheer all plants, making them rounded or oval, never straight across the top. Then I put an inch mulch of old sawdust all around. Next year I'll use peat moss.

In October, I prune my yews. Small branches I use to make a heavy mulch all around the boxwoods. In November, I continue to prune, setting the longer limbs up tepee fashion over the boxwoods. In January, I buy old Christmas trees to set up around the corners (we live on a corner lot) where dogs frequently come sniffing around and leave their trademark, which kills the boxwood at once.

(Continued on Page 16)

List of Charter Members of American Boxwood Society

Honorary Life Members

With the citations read at the time of their unanimous election at the first meeting of founder members, May 2, 1961.

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo., for his surprising discoveries of unrecognized types of Buxus in the Balkans and his successful establishment of more than 140 of those "new" types in the United States.

Mrs. J. B. McCarty, "Waverley", Delaplane, Virginia, for her appreciation of boxwood as evidenced by her notable and large plantings of it and her charming and informative book on the history of boxwood in the ancient pleasure gardens and commerce of the world, from Phoenician times to the present.

Mr. A. B. Price, 330 Tenth Street, Arlington, Virginia, for organizing the trade in boxwood sprays for Christmas wreaths, popularizing this use of boxwood among florists from Washington to Boston and Chicago, and meanwhile, for half a century, while visiting and appreciating the beauty of scores of boxwood gardens always protecting them against unwise commercial exploitation.

Prof. A. G. Smith, Jr., Associate Professor of Horticulture, retired, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va., for his study of the types, care, and diseases of boxwood and the creation of an exceptionally large experimental planting at Blacksburg.

Dr. Orland E. White, Professor of Biology and Agriculture, Emeritus, U. Va., 1708 Jefferson Park Avenue, Charlottesville, Va., for his long interest in boxwood and inspiration in establishing an arboretum with a notable collection of specimens at Blandy.

Life Member

Hanes, Mrs. John W. Jr., Box 64 Great Falls, Virginia

Sustaining Members

Fletcher, Mrs. Robert Howe, 320 North King Street, Leesburg, Va.
Hickman, Mrs. Baylor, Goshen, Kentucky
Smith, Mr. Archie, Jr., Box 281, Middleburg, Va.

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Eastern Shore of Va., Garden Club of, . . . Mrs. Eugene Smith, Pres., Cropperville Farms, Accomac, Va.
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Adkerson, Mr. J. Carson, Woodstock, Va.
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Benoit, Mr. George, Box 390, "Snowden Farm", Fredericksburg, Va.
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Blackwell, Mr. James D., 6117 St. Andrews Lane, Richmond 26, Va.
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di Zerega, Mrs. Thomas William, "Diamond Hill", Aldie, Va.
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Husted, Dr. Ladley, R.F.D. 3, Charlottesville, Va.
Hutchins, Mrs. John S., "Blue Ridge Farm", Greenwood, Va.

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Irby, Mrs. Llewellyn H., "Poplar Hill", Blackstone, Va.
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Johnson, Mrs. Ellsworth, 20 Peyton Street ,Winchester, Va.
Johnson, Mr. Meredith, Woodlawn Plantations, Va.
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Annual membership dues of the American Boxwood Society are $3, Contributing $10, Sustaining $25, Life $100, and Patron $500. Subscription to the Society's quarterly, the Boxwood Bulletin, is included in the dues. Subscriptions by non-members is at the regular rates quoted on the inside cover page. As provided by the constitution of the Society, upon the closing of Charter Memberships and hereafter applicants for membership shall be passed upon at the regular annual meeting in the spring. Annual dues cover the twelve-month period between these general meetings of the membership.

Applicants are requested to file their names at the offices of the American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Va., and enclose their dues, prior to the April meeting. All applicants meanwhile, will receive the Bulletin at the special rate accorded members. An application form is printed below and may be copied or, for convenience, may be cut out, filled in and mailed.

Secretary, the American Boxwood Society,
Boyce, Virginia.

Kindly find enclosed my cheque for _____
to cover annual dues as a _____ member
for the year 196__ and a year's subscription to
the Boxwood Bulletin. I hereby wish to apply
for membership in the Society.

_____
(Name)

_____
(Street or Box No. or R.F.D. Route)

_____
(City or post office)

_____
(State)

A Report and an Offer From Idaho

By W. O. Braun

There is an area where it is possible to grow boxwood in Idaho. Beginning at an elevation of 2,300 feet, it is about 100 miles in width, and, starting in south central Idaho, follows the course of the Snake River down stream to the southwest corner of the State then north to where Oregon, Washington, and Idaho converge. At that point the elevation is 800 feet and the Snake River and its tributaries join to become the Columbia River, which then flows west marking the boundary between the States of Washington and Oregon.

My home is in Canyon County in southwest Idaho, which is a diversified agricultural region. And Canyon County, considered per acre and per man hour, is the second most productive county in the U. S. A.

Climate-wise in the valleys, up to 2,300 feet or less, the summers, July through August 15th, are warm to hot with day-time temperatures of 80° and up occasionally to 100°. The nights are cool, about 65°. Humidity is very low, about 15%, and the rain from June 15th to September 15th is zero. In spring and fall the temperature is ideal, 60° to 70° in the day and in the 40's at night with an occasional frost in the early spring and late fall.

Winter is when we get the biggest part of our total precipitation, 11 whole inches. During December, January, and February of the average winter, our soil is frost locked for about thirty days. And during late December and early January there are sometimes a few nights when the temperature drops down to zero, but there are more winters without zero temperatures than with them. Once in perhaps ten years, however, it can get down to 20° below zero.

My experience here has been with several varieties of boxwood. I have had some "English Dwarf" or *suffruticosa* on hand for ten years in an open field with no protection and with only one winter when there was damage from frost. That occurred when the temperature dropped to 20° below, but the damage was slight. The center cores of branches were killed on perhaps half of the plants, I suppose because these center branches had been shielded by the outer ones and, therefore, were more tender. But the first growing season covered up what damage there was. These plants, at the time, were five years old and approximately a foot in height and eight inches in width.

Apparently we have had no disease here. We do have a condition, however, locally called "sunblasted". It occurrs in field crops also as a result of irrigation in hot weather after plants have had a flush of tender, new growth. If plants with early summer growth have hardened before being watered, they will not be damaged. And the same thing holds true with new growth made in the last half of August. I have good control of the situation because there is no rain during this part of the year and our sprinkler system supplies the only water. The first frosts do us no damage.

I have two ten-year-old "English" dwarf specimens, two feet by fourteen inches, and approximately 2,500 of this variety on hand. It is a good seller.

Buxus welleri also does well. I have had as many as 200 of this variety but, being of loose growth habit, it did not go over well, so I did not plant any more. I should keep some for comparison, however, to help sell the "English" dwarf.

The variety of tree boxwood that I have frosts up badly. I had about 100. Their growth was loose. Very probably they would have winter killed during a hard season.

Regarding the variety of Korean boxwood I had, there were 100 rooted cuttings, about three inches in height, lined out in an open field, and I lost them all in a two year period, a few at a time. I have bought 200 more recently and will try them again, after growing them in a "shade-house" for two or three years. Their larger size then may help getting them started in an open field.

I have seen a pyramid shaped boxwood, about three feet tall with golden edged leaves. It was sent in from the Oregon west coast region and was very pretty. What happened to it I don't know.

Most boxwoods in this area are planted where they will get some shade. If we had more hardy varieties available, there would be more interest in them.

I would like to set up a Boxwood Arboretum here with all the recommended hardy varieties. If there is any fellow Boxwood Society member who could advise me where I could purchase a good selection to start such an arboretum, I would appreciate it. I could add new varieties as I found out about them. And if any fellow member would like to try out the hardiness of some particular variety in this area, I would be glad to cooperate and would send in a report of the results. Since I have a 22,000 square foot "shade-house" I have facilities to compare results in a protected site with those in an unprotected one.

Regarding boxwood in a number of other Western States, I think the elevations in Montana and Wyoming are too great, but there may be canyons and valleys in Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and Arizona where *buxus* hight make it. The West Coast has a lot of boxwood from San Francisco on north to British Columbia. It is as moist and humid there as in jolly old England.

I am in this business not so much for the money but for the interest I have in growing and propagating plants. When any fellow Boxwood Society members are in this area I would be glad to have them drop in on me for a visit. We still have the cowboys and Indians but they are quieter and less odorous than thirty years ago, and good citizens, too.

Practice "good-housekeeping" in the garden and yard. Broken glass, nails, etc., can cause painful injuries.

Delayed Damage From Last Winter

"I joined the American Boxwood Society to see if you could help me find a cure for my *sempervirens* hedge," complains a Charter Member. "The University of _____ men have told us everything from canker to nematodes and still whole branches die."

It happens that in battle strong men sometimes continue to fight effectively, though they have received several bullets in their bodies. They may succumb an hour later, that night, the following day, or as a result of such internal wounds not until a year or so afterwards. But at the same time their fellows frequently have not known even that they had been wounded. Boxwood often displays a similar rugged vitality.

Most damage rue to sunscald or winter kill, this past year, did not show up until the last snow had melted. On many boxwood limbs and trunks the surface wounds — peeling bark and burst fibers — were there but even watchful gardeners failed to observe them under deceiving masses of seemingly healthy, dark green foliage.

But now we are warned that probably there were other deeper wounds, like injuries from embedded bullets, that we could not detect. This is the damage done to unformed buds lying beneath the surface, that future crop of flowers and seeds that might have been. Dr. H. B. Tukey, Jr., writing in *The Cornell Plantations,* a quarterly published by Cornell University, explains the nature of these injuries.

He begins by quoting an old saying that "Winter injury is always worse that it seems at first," and adds that it "was never more true than in New York State this year." So timely is his article and so applicable are his words that they would serve to answer scores of inquiries regarding the cause, the nature, and the future effects, if not the cure, for winter injury to boxwood.

"Now that the cool, wet spring has given way to summer," writes Dr. Tukey in the Summer issue of the quarterly, "the effects of the unusually severe winter are in evidence in every community. Browning of hardy *Taxus,* killing of privet, poor flowering of *Forsythia,* and heavy losses to fall-planted trees are all examples of winter damage. And the reports and questions about winter injury will be coming in for months to come.

"The season was perfect for winter kill. The fall was bright, sunny, and dry. The winter was also bright and sunny, but with record cold that came early and remained for long periods in all areas of the State. Desiccation was widespread under such conditions, and even the most hardy plants often suffered.

"One of the strange things about winter injury is that the damage may not be evident the first year after injury. For example, cold may injure the tender apical meristems in the stem tips. These apical meristems form next year's buds early in the spring of the current year. Thus the effects of the winter cold may not become evident until over a year later when poor flowering and growth may be noted.

"Graft unions and branch crotches are tender spots in relation to winter cold. However, it may take several years for the injury to show. Only a portion of the great union may be injured, and it may function for many years until the right kind of stress is applied, which causes it to break or fail. The records are full of reports of grafted fruit trees that failed many years after cold injured the union.

"Similarly, crotches may be slightly injured, and the damage may not show up until a high wind breaks the branch or until dry conditions prevail, when water movement to the branch may be restricted.

"Summer and fall-planted materials were easy marks for winter injury this year. In the dry fall, the plants did not become well established and easily succumbed to the desiccating conditions of winter.

"Throughout the summer and for several years in the future, agents and nurserymen will be asked to diagnose 'mysterious' diseases and maladies that have appeared on apparently healthy plants. Winter-killed tissue may allow the penetration of disease organisms which may eventually kill plants. Thus, injury by diseases may be indirectly attributed to winter injury. Injured stems which were girdled by cold may be the real cause of some apparent nutrient deficiency symptoms this year. We would all do well to remember winter injury, for this will be, directly and indirectly, one of the primary causes of problems for some time."

It may be poor solace to be reminded that the damage to boxwood was not exceptional but rather typical of the damage to many other ornamentals. But when leaves whiten and dry and yellow, and branches become brittle and dead, distressed fanciers of boxwood must not take it for granted that there are too many nematodes an inch or so down in the soil at work upon the roots or that deadly atomic debris is falling from the sky.

"Reader Interest" in Boxwood Topics

In the first letter to prospective members of the American Boxwood Society, a questionnaire was enclosed, inquiring what "reader interests" on boxwood the recipient might have. A survey of those questionnaires that were returned indicates that more persons are concerned with the "Care of Boxwood" and "Diseases of Boxwood" than with any other topics. The areas of interest designated by members and the percentage of those expressing preference are listed below.

1. A. Care of Boxwood. (20%)
   B. Diseases of Boxwood. (20%)
2. Species and Varieties. (14%).
3. Great American Boxwood Gardens. (10%).
4. Insects of Boxwood. (10%)
5. Uses of Boxwood in Planting. (9%)
6. Boxwood in History and Literature. 8%)
7. Commercial Uses of Boxwood. (5%)
8. Selling Boxwood Sprays for Christmas Wreaths. (4%)

(Other items of listed interest: Hardy Varieties; Winter Protection; Care and Maintenance of Old Boxwood; Boxwood on Eastern Shore of Maryland.)

This "poll" will be utilized in selecting topics for consideration both in the Bulletin, and at the annual meetings.

Comments...

(Continued from Page 9)

One of the best landscape men in Indianapolis said he did not recommend planting box unless it is inside a patio wall, away from cold winds. Another nurseryman says he never sells any variety of box except Korean.

I read on the garden page of the New York Times, this spring, about a new hardy variety but I did not copy the name at the time and am on a hunt for it now.

An oldtime Scotch gardener in Greenwich told me to give boxwood a quick, forceful spray of water directly on the leaves at the noonday, full sun, heat. I do this most every day.

Indianapolis is a beautiful city and has many very lovely old gardens. The Park School Garden Tour every spring covers the best of them. I have never missed a one for fourteen years. From now on I'll be looking for more real information on boxwood.

MRS. R. GREENE, *Tipton, Ind.*

Damage in Delaware

We have tree box, *sempervirens, Harlandi, B. microphylla compacta, B. Korean minor,* and English box. All box in this area took an awful beating the past two winters. First the heavy snow and then the intense cold. The Longwood garden's old box (English) was almost completely destroyed and the box in general badly killed, that is killed almost back to the roots. I think all eventually would start up from the ground level, so the roots were not killed.

One of my *sempervirens* hedges was badly damaged, split bark, and so forth, but the other not too badly. Funnily enough, the ailing one previously described as having symptoms of sunscald canker and nematodes) stood the cold better. They are slightly different in type. The Korean was not harmed nor Hardandii, but the latter is up against the greenhouse and, therefore, more sheltered.

We spray for boxwood leaf miner. We have stopped putting burlap, etc., around or over our box but one should to be safe.

MRS. DONALD P. ROSS, *Montchanin, Delaware*

Varieties in the Deep South

I have consulted Dr. James A. Foret and Dr. Sigmond Solymosy, my colleagues in the horticulture department, and the following information is what we can assemble.

On the campus we have plantings of *Buxus sempervirens, B. japonica, and B. harlandii.* The nurserymen in this area sell these same three boxwoods. Dr. Solymosy, who has charge of the campus, has trouble with nematodes but has seen no boxwood miner. Dr. Foret has seen what is called "decline" or "dieback" on boxwood.

There is an old planting of boxwood at Oak Alley, a plantation between St. James and Donaldsonville. The plants are nearly five feet tall. There are probably other plantings at St. Francisville, La.

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Sempervirens No Tender Tropical

Many persons think of boxwood as a native of the moist lowlands. That is not the case.

It is both true that *Buxus sempervirens* has been found adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions, and that other species, nevertheless, have proved more hardy in colder and in warmer, in dryer and in wetter climates, but *sempervirens* grows wild in greater profusion in the cooler uplands than in any warm tidelands or temperate islands.

As yet our knowledge is limited regarding its tolerance of altitude, for sunscald rather than height above sea level may be the limiting factor. Through the interest of members we expect to see varieties of *sempervirens* and several other species tested at Denver, Colorado, at an altitude of 5,280 feet, and near Santa Fe, New Mexico, at an altitude of 6,950 feet.

Writing in 1884, A. Grisebach reported from Leipsig, Germany, that he had observed native *B. sempervirens* in the mountains of northern Albania at an altitude of 3,000 feet. That announcement certainly was not startling, for it grows wild at that and greater altitudes in the Pyrenees of Spain, the Caucasus of Asia Miner and the Elburz Mountains immediately south of the Caspian Sea.

Buxus sempervirens is found growing at an elevation of 2000 feet in the Caucasus Mountains of the Soviet satrapical state of Georgia between the Black and Caspian Seas and at 4,000 feet in the Kolchichi region.

There are scientific records of it too in the mountains of Afghanistan, and along the Himalayas of India into China but those are areas from which we appear to have few detailed and explicit reports of its varieties or relative abundance.

There is another district, however, now sealed off by the iron curtain, from which we have scientific information describing it at a considerable greater elevation.

In that ninety mile waist of southern Yugoslavia, midway between the border of northeast Albania and that of west central Bulgaria, the peaks of Ljuboten, an extension of the Sar Planina, rise to 8,235 feet. From its northern base the waters of the Juz Morava twist up through the mountains in contorted coils to join the Danube, twenty-five air line miles from Belgrade, on its way to the Black Sea. And across the divide, but two miles from the Morava's headwaters, as an eagle flies, the Vardvar River plunges through rugged gorges southward for 110 miles to the Gulf of Salonika. There Jujo Adamovic found B. *sempervirens* native nearly 4,000 feet above sea level, as he stated in a tract printed at Leipzig, in 1909.

It is too bad we cannot make cuttings for propagation from that stout stock. Given winter protection from sunscald, it might prove hardy at much greater altitudes.

The Garden Club of Virginia, in 1961, had 43 member clubs with an individual membership in them totaling 2,240 active, associate, and sustaining members and 286 honorary members. Of the 104 garden clubs that constitute the member clubs of the Garden Club of America, 11 are members also of the Garden Club of Virginia.