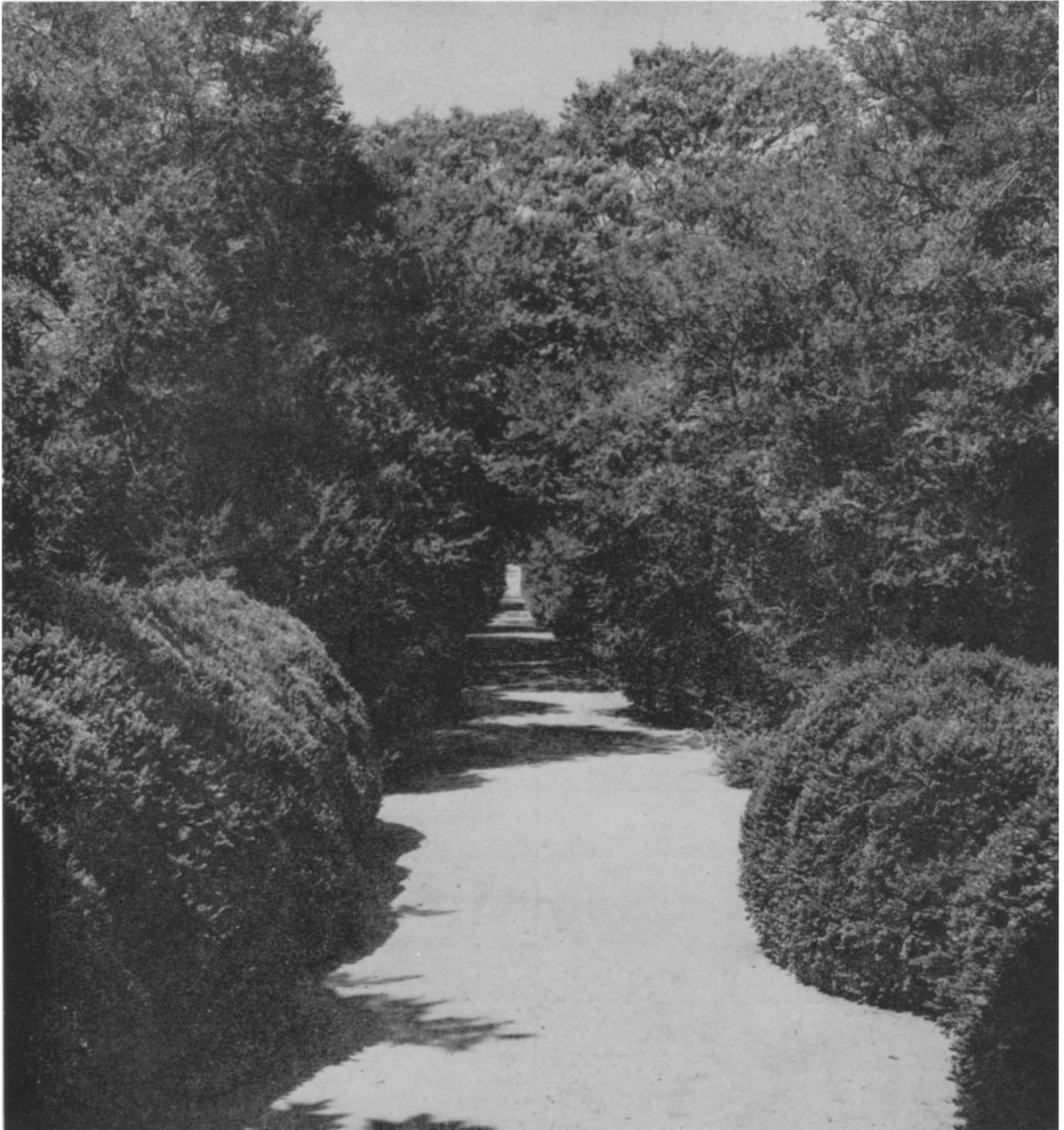


*The*

JULY 1969

# Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



*The famous box walk at Eyre Hall, near Eastville on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.*

**Boyce, Va.**

**Vol. 9 No. 1**



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## EDGAR ANDERSON (1897-1969)

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Honorary Life Member of the American Boxwood Society, died suddenly at his home on the grounds of the Missouri Botanical Garden, June 18, 1969. He had been in poor health for a number of years, but he worked until the day of his death. He was born at Forestville, New York, November 9, 1897. Mrs. Anderson and their daughter, Phoebe, survive him.

One especially associates Anderson's life as a botanist with Harvard University and the Arnold Arboretum and with Washington University in St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden, though he likewise invested himself at a number of other institutions including the Blandy Experimental Farm, and in field studies.

His introduction in the 1930s of boxwood seedlings from the Balkans area was the most significant addition to the germplasm of *Buxus sempervirens* in the United States in recent years. Variety 'Vardar Valley' is founded on one of these seedlings.

Among Doctor Anderson's interests over the years were evolution-in-progress in populations, variation within species, and the flow of genes from one species to another through hybridization (introgressive hybridization). He devised ingenious ways to measure these phenomena. He wrote in 1956: "The world is full of easy keys to important problems; only once in a while does a genius come along and label these keys as significant evidence." He is an excellent exemplar of that rare individual. He considered man to be a part of Nature, and he was much concerned with plants that related to human evolution and human cultures. In his later years at the Garden he had himself designated Curator of Useful Plants.

His mind was prolific with ideas: many were good; some wild, and all original. In his writings — scientific and popular alike — he expressed himself with force and clarity, and he could irritate as well as stimulate in a favorable way. He was impatient

with dullards and bureaucrats, and his forthrightness often brought responses. It was this recollection, I judge, that caused him to write in Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 6, 1959, the following, until-now-unpublished "poem":

" . . . . . ; but not unless he keeps his  
damn  
mouth  
shut!

Perhaps among the *almost* blind  
The one-eyed man is king,  
But sight cannot be seen by those  
Who never saw a thing.

Within the country of the blind  
All vision is denied,  
And one-eyed men who boast of sight  
Are sometimes crucified."

Doctor Anderson was a good teacher — a truly great one, in my opinion, through his writings and because of his work with groups of amateurs who almost unanimously appreciated his genius, his wit, his gaiety, his kindness.

Edgar Anderson was a highly significant human being: he was widely admired; he will be greatly missed.

. . . . J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

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Cover: The famous box walk at Eyre Hall, near Eastville on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Owned by the Eyre family since 1662; the oldest part of the

house dates from 1750. — Photograph courtesy of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Photographer, Phil Flournoy.

# Minutes of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society was held on Wednesday, May 14, 1969, at Oatlands, the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation located on Route 15, south of Leesburg, Virginia. Many of the members and guests arrived early to visit the beautiful Oatlands mansion and gardens.

Rear Admiral Neill Phillips, President, called the meeting to order at 11 A.M. in the Carriage House which is located outside the area of the mansion and gardens at Oatlands and stated this was the largest registration the Society has had to date with 150 members and friends present. After welcoming the guests, the President introduced the officers of the Society.

The minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting in May 1968, held at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia, were approved as published in the July 1968 issue of THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN.



*The stately mansion at Oatlands, scene of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society. The late-Georgian house was built between 1800 and 1803, and is now a National Trust property. Members of ABS toured the great house at lunch-time and after the meeting.*

The report of the Secretary-Treasurer for the year ended April 30, 1969 was presented and approved. (The complete report is printed in this issue of The Bulletin.) A special word of thanks was extended to Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby for her many hours of work unselfishly devoted to this job.

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Editor of THE BULLETIN, was introduced by the President and presented her report. She stated the cost of producing the Bulletin for the year 1968-69 was \$1,609.28 and that the printing cost has been raised by \$2.00 a page effective immediately. The budget allowance for the publication of the Bulletin this year has been ample, but there will be a need to consider an increase in funds in 1969-70 for this purpose if its high standard is to be continued. Mrs. Whiting stressed the importance of members sending in contributions for the Bulletin. She would appreciate any ideas, such as clippings from magazines, articles from old books, etc., or anything of interest that could be developed into an article for the bulletin. Mrs. Whiting thanked the Society for sending her to the Williamsburg Symposium. She described the various programs presented there and felt that she had gained a great deal from this experience.

It was the sense of the meeting that the high standard of the Bulletin should not be jeopardized, and that the budget allowance for the Bulletin should be increased by the Executive Committee if they deem this to be necessary.

The President urged those present to visit Oatlands House and gardens before leaving, and invited everyone to visit his house and gardens at Heronwood, Upperville, after the adjournment of the meeting. He expressed his satisfaction with the way the Society has progressed in the last eight years and expressed the hope that eventually there might be appointed an Executive Director to carry on the increasing activities of the Society.

Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., who was in charge of the program for the day, presented Dr. Henry T. Skinner, Director of the National Arboretum in Washington, who gave a progress report on a proposal to establish a fellowship in the name of the American Boxwood Society and with funds provided by the Society, for a student to do research pertaining to boxwood at the University of Maryland with the cooperation of the National Arboretum. He stated

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*All photographs, Col. Donald W. Noakes.*

that he had met with Dr. Thompson of the University of Maryland and another meeting is planned for the end of this month and feels confident that a satisfactory arrangement can be worked out.

The problem of preserving old boxwood and why they deteriorate after a certain age is reached was discussed. Dr. Skinner thought this could tie into the student research project proposed above.

A discussion followed regarding the importance of securing permits from the Plant Quarantine Department of the Department of Agriculture before bringing plants or clippings into the country. It was suggested that a memorandum with detailed instructions as to how and where to secure permits be published in the Bulletin for the information of members traveling abroad.

A question and answer section in the Bulletin was suggested. Mrs. Whiting pointed out that The Mail Box, a more or less regular feature, answers this description. However, she feels that people who write in usually want and need the answer as soon as possible; and if it cannot be found in already-published Bulletin articles, the question is referred to one of the many ABS directors or members who know the problems of boxwood, and have been most generous and helpful. The questioner receives a prompt reply by letter; and then in due time both question and answer appear in The Mail Box.

Mr. Alden Eaton, Director of Landscape Construction and Maintenance, Colonial Williamsburg, in reporting on the progress of compiling a manual of horticultural practices on boxwood, stated that little concrete progress has been made to date and that it would take a lot of time and cooperation from members of this Society and other groups to compile a manual of standardized procedures for all the different areas. It was agreed that Mr. Eaton and Admiral Phillips would prepare and mail a questionnaire to various persons asking for information on the basic practices they have followed for their specific areas, and then prepare a manual that would be of assistance to people requesting information from the A.B.S.

Admiral Phillips presented a newsletter prepared by the Conservation Foundation on spraying and told of the dangers involved in the use of DDT. He stated that in the April 1967 issue of the ABS Bulletin a schedule for spraying (prepared by the Department of Agriculture) was printed which recommends the use of DDT and he feels because of this publication, ABS may be assumed to be on record as approving the use of the chemical, and we should take some stand on the matter. It was agreed to ask for an up-to-date revision of the schedule by the Department of Agriculture for publication in the Bulletin. (Dr. Floyd Smith, Division of Entomology, Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md., is the person to contact regarding this.)

Mr. John Richardson of Fairfield, Berryville, Va., was introduced and showed various specimens of plant material he had assembled for the meeting and invited inspection by the group.

The meeting was recessed for luncheon at 12:30 P.M. and reconvened at 1:30 P.M.

Mrs. Miriam Rabb, Executive Director at Oatlands, was introduced by the President and a special thanks extended to her for making the arrangements for our meeting at Oatlands. She welcomed the group and invited everyone to see the gardens and house before leaving the grounds.

The next order of business was the election of officers and directors for the ensuing year.

The nominating committee consisted of Mr. Woodson P. Houghton (Chairman), Mrs. Whiting and Admiral Phillips. The terms of two of the six directors expire in 1969; namely, Dr. W. R. Singleton and Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting. The Nominating Committee recommended renominating those persons for another term to succeed themselves. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following officers for 1969-70:

- Rear Admiral Neill Phillips, President
- Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., 1st Vice President
- Mr. John Richardson, 2nd Vice President
- Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby, Secretary-Treasurer

A motion was unanimously passed that the above-named officers be elected for the year 1969-70.



*ABS members entering the Carriage House at Oatlands, where the meeting was held.*

An executive committee was then appointed for the year 1969-70 consisting of the President, the 1st Vice President, the 2nd Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Editor of The Bulletin.

Due to the increased cost of producing the Bulletin and in order to raise more funds for this project, a motion was made, seconded and passed that the annual dues of the American Boxwood Society be increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per year, commencing May 1, 1970. This must now be submitted to the membership as an amendment to the Constitution in accordance with Article XII, Section 1.

It was suggested that in the future the Secretary-Treasurer include a statement on the bills for dues that the ABS is an educational non-profit organization and not subject to tax.

Dr. Baldwin read some interesting passages from an article, by Mr. Spurgeon Compton of South Boston, Virginia, describing the boxwood farm in Halifax County (near Lynchburg), Virginia, operated by F. M. Hickson, who raises and sells boxwood cuttings to florists on a very profitable basis. Mr. Compton's article will be printed in The Bulletin.

Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg of the National Resources Council was presented by Dr. Baldwin and gave an extremely interesting and informative talk on "How Plants Get Their Names." He will do an article on this subject for the Bulletin in detail.

Dr. John L. Creech, Chief, New Corps Research Branch, ARS, Beltsville, Md., spoke on plant exploration and collecting in the Far East. His commentary was beautifully illustrated by colored slides of plant life (Japan and Thailand) taken on his trips.



*Many members lunched outside under the towering trees that surround the buildings.*

The President thanked the distinguished speakers for taking the time to share their experiences with the Society; and also Dr. Baldwin for assembling the fine program.

With a reminder from the President to visit his gardens in Upperville, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, as  
recorded by Mrs. Ruby P. Dove

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

*for the year ended April 30, 1969*

Despite a considerable loss in members resulting from nonpayment of dues, the Society continues to increase in total membership. As of April 30, 1969, the total membership count was 582, which represents an increase of 29 members over the total reported (553) at the 1968 annual meeting.

I received notice of the deaths of four members during the year. Three members resigned, and 43 names were removed in April 1969 for nonpayment. Seventy-three new members were added to the roster during the year.

The membership receiving the BOXWOOD BULLETIN during the year:

6	Honorary Life Members
9	Life Members
5	Sustaining Members
49	Contributing Members
527	Regular Members
30	Subscribers (Non-Members): groups and institutions
626	<i>Total</i>

Twenty-eight free subscriptions were sent to Garden Editors and Agricultural Departments: 12 in the United States and Canada, 16 to foreign countries.

During the year 132 back numbers of The Bulletin were mailed and 15 copies of the Wagenknecht List were sold. There are copies of all back issues of The Boxwood Bulletin on hand for resale, ranging from about 25 copies of some numbers upwards to 100 copies of other numbers.

570 Membership renewal notices enclosing the notice of Annual Meeting were mailed April 18, 1969.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1969

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Ninth Annual Meeting, May 14, 1969

<p>Balance as of April 30, 1968 (reported) ----- \$ 365.32</p> <p>Plus deposit of 4/30/68 (credited 5/1/68) ----- 6.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>371.32</u></p> <p>Less checkbook adjustment: #25A (4/23/68) 5.25 (two checks out) #26A (4/25/68) 6.00      11.25</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>        </u></p> <p>Total cash at May 1, 1968 ... \$ 360.07</p> <p>Check #60A outstanding as of April 30, 1969 ----- 150.28</p> <p><i>Receipts</i></p> <p>Membership dues &amp; subscriptions      \$2,363.00</p> <p>Bulletin sales      132.69</p> <p>Wagenknecht List sales      4.28</p> <p>Lunches, 1968 Annual Meeting      267.25</p> <p>Gifts (for postage)      6.00</p> <p>Interest earned on Cert. of Deposit #1025 (Bank of Clarke Co.)      100.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total cash receipts -----</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>2,873.22</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$3,383.57</p> <p><i>Disbursements</i></p> <p>The Boxwood Bulletin Printing (4 numbers)      960.00</p> <p>Copyrights (3 issues)      18.00</p> <p>Cuts -----      442.43</p> <p>Plates (addressogph.)      10.04</p> <p>Manila Envelopes ---      157.52</p> <p>Postage -----      21.29      1,609.28</p> <p><i>Office Expenses</i></p> <p>Minutes Book &amp; Seal ..      29.52</p> <p>Check Book (Bank of Clarke Co.) -----      4.42</p> <p>Stamps (3 billings) --      94.28</p> <p>Envelopes (window &amp; Gilbert) -----      36.00</p> <p>Supplies -----      5.44      1969.66</p>	<p><i>Other Expenses</i></p> <p>Bank activity chg. ---      .62</p> <p>Incorporation Services (fee) -----      150.94</p> <p>Lunches, 1968 Annual Meeting -----      252.20</p> <p>Printing &amp; Folding Notices of 1968 Annual Meeting ---      20.00</p> <p>Photo Prints: Allen Studio --      8.58</p> <p>Va. State Lib. -      9.50</p> <p>South Boston Photo Shop --26.00      44.08</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>        </u></p> <p>Xerox Copies (IRS papers) -----      5.16</p> <p>Secretarial Services (Directors' Meeting 3/1/69) -----      54.56</p> <p>Editor to Williamsburg Symposium Registration fee      30.00</p> <p>Lodging -----      62.40      92.40      619.96</p> <p>Refund (overpayment of dues) -----      2.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>        </u></p> <p>Total disbursements --      2,400.90</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>        </u></p> <p>Total cash in checking account, Bank of Clarke Co., April 30, 1969      982.67</p> <p>In the Bank of Clarke County:</p> <p>Checking Account -----      982.67</p> <p>Certificate of Deposit #1025      2,000.00</p> <p>Savings Account -----      800.00</p> <p>Interest earned on Savings (3/28/68 through 3/31/69)      32.48</p> <p>Total cash in Bank April 30, 1969 -----      \$3,815.15</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>        </u></p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">Anna C. Kirby Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby Secretary-Treasurer</p>
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*Buxus sempervirens* var. *latifolia maculata*. Photo: Col. Donald W. Noake. Plant from Kingsville Nurseries. Under certain conditions leaves become solid green, and the maculate character is lost.

# The Common Box In Britain

By

Roy Lancaster

(Continued from the April issue of the Boxwood Bulletin.)

## 'Elegantissima'

A very dense, compact sort of rounded habit but growing out a little when unpruned. Leaves small to medium-sized, variously shaped; dark green, with irregular creamy-white margin. This is one of the most attractive kinds of box when well grown. Unfortunately its variegation tends to revert on plants which are regularly and hard clipped. A specimen at Winchester is 7 ft. in height.

## 'Glauca'

A form of robust habit. Leaves medium to large; dark almost black-green, with a conspicuous glaucous bloom, particularly when young. A large spreading specimen at Kew measured 11 x 15 ft. There is a specimen of similar size at Warnham Court, near Horsham, Sussex.

## 'Handsworthensis'

One of the strongest growing cultivars. An erect, wide-spreading shrub with stout, orange-tinged twigs. Leaves medium-sized, elliptic, elliptic-oblong to broadly elliptic, firm and somewhat leathery in texture, olive-green to grey-green, particularly at the tips of the shoots. Becoming dark shining green when shaded.

Because of its vigorous growth, this cv. is ideally suited for use as a large hedge or screen. A large specimen at Kew measures 15 ft. x 20 ft., whilst a hedge in Hillier's Jermyns Lane nursery is 13 ft. high. Also listed under the names 'Handsworthii' and 'Handsworthiensis'.

The cv. 'Hardwickensis' or 'Pyramidalis Hardwickensis' is said to be a related but distinct form. Specimens I have examined have proved identical. Both were raised by Fisher Son and Sibray, at their Handsworth nursery near Sheffield. Certain phases of the forms 'Arborescens', 'Latifolia' and 'Pyramidalis' are very similar and all may have arisen from a common ancestor.

## 'Latifolia'

This name covers a wide range of large leaved forms many of which have now been given separate names. The original clone is now rare or confused in cultivation, but there are fine specimens, possibly of this clone, at Lacock Abbey in Wilts.

## 'Latifolia Bullata'

A large growing sort of spreading habit. Leaves medium to large, ovate to ovate-orbicular, dark

green, crisped and puckered. This is a curious rather than attractive cv., with almost scalloped leaves and heavy, spreading branches. A specimen at Kew measures 8 ft. x 10 ft.

The peculiar form of the leaves should not be confused with the damage caused to the terminal foliage by the "box sucker", *Psylla buxi*.

## 'Latifolia Macrophylla'

Of loose, open habit, the branches heavy and lax. Leaves medium to large, ovate to ovate-orbicular, deep shining green. A large spreading shrub of heavy appearance. A specimen at Winchester had attained 7 x 7 ft. until a recent move.

A slower-growing form with rounded leaves is occasionally grown under the name 'Rotundifolia'.

## 'Latifolia Maculata'

A relatively low-growing shrub, occasionally reaching 6 to 8 ft. in shade. Leaves medium to large; ovate to ovate-orbicular, dark green, variously striped and splashed yellow. This cv. is worth growing for its spring foliage, which is a bright sunny yellow. The older leaves tend to lose their variegation.

A popular shrub in former times when it was often sold under the name 'Japonica Aurea', it is commonly found in country churchyards. It makes an attractive low hedge and annual pruning seems to encourage the rich yellow young growth. A specimen at Winchester measured 4 x 6 ft. whilst another, in a wood at Longleat, Wilts., measured 9 x 10 ft.

## 'Longifolia'

An erect growing form, with slender, densely arranged stems. Leaves medium to large, narrowly oblong to oblong-lanceolate, dark green. Usually seen as a large bush 10 to 15 ft. high. It is distinguished from the majority of other cvs. by its long, narrow leaves. It is often grown under the names 'Angustifolia', 'Elata' or 'Salicifolia'.

A taller-growing form of slender, lax habit is known as 'Salicifolia Elata' and is represented at Kew by a fine specimen which measured 25 ft. in height.

## 'Marginata'

A strong, erect growing form, with stiff, sturdy,

orange-tinged shoots. Leaves medium-sized, misshapen and somewhat puckered or twisted, elliptic, oblong-elliptic to broadly elliptic, dark green, irregularly splashed and margined yellow. A vigorous clone, probably a branch sport of 'Handsworthensis'. The variegation, though rather inconspicuous from a distance, is quite noticeable on the young leaves. Its vigour recommends it as a large hedge plant but its variegation tends to revert too easily.

This clone is often found in country churchyards and a specimen in the Cathedral Close at Winchester is 12 ft. high and as much through.

#### 'Myosotifolia'

An erect growing, twiggy bush of rather compact habit. Leaves small to medium sized, oblanceolate to narrow elliptic-oblong, dark green. A slow growing sort, resembling in some ways *Lonicera nitida*. A specimen at Winchester has attained 5 ft. in height after many years.

#### 'Myrtifolia'

A distinctive cv. of spreading habit. Leaves medium sized, narrow, ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate, dark shining green. An attractive shrub, with leaves arranged in fan-like sprays which are delightfully copper tinted during winter. Stated by many sources to be a dwarf shrub of slow growth, a specimen, probably of this cv., at Kew measured approximately 13 ft. high and as much through.

#### 'Notata'

A tall form with leaves medium sized, dark green and having a conspicuous yellow tip. This characteristic is best seen on the older leaves. Also known as 'Gold Tip'.

Yellow tips and edging to the leaves are sometimes seen in other cvs. and are often due to dry conditions in the roots, whilst a similar effect has been noticed on box growing in ground that has been treated with certain pre-emergent herbicides.

'Notata' is not one of the best sorts nor does it appear to be particularly stable. There is a specimen at Winchester 15 ft. high and another at Kew 8 ft. high by 15 ft. through.

#### 'Pendula'

A large shrub or small tree of loose, open growth, the branchlets pendulous. Leaves medium sized, rather narrow in outline, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, dark green, dull to somewhat shining above. It makes an attractive lawn specimen if well grown and cared for. A specimen at Winchester measured 12 ft. in height up till a recent move. There is a larger leaved form of coarser growth, usually referred to as 'Latifolia Pendula'.

#### 'Prostrata'

Rather open in habit and slender branched in the young state but soon filling out. Eventually a large spreading bush, with horizontal branches and rather lax branchlets. Leaves medium sized, ovate-elliptic to lanceolate, occasionally mis-shaped and puckered, dark shining green, dull at first. Mentioned in Bean as a low shrub, rarely more than 2 to 3 ft. high. A specimen at Winchester measured 6 ft. in height and 8 ft. through till a recent move.

#### 'Pyramidalis'

A tall, erect growing cv., somewhat cone-shaped in habit when young but broadening as it matures. Leaves medium to large, oblong-ovate to ovate-lanceolate, dark shining green. A screen at Birr Castle in Ireland was 30 ft. in height when measured by Mr. Allan Mitchell in 1966. Continual clipping and pruning of lateral growths tends to increase the height of a hedge or screen.

#### 'Rosmarinifolia'

A dwarf shrub of neat habit. Leaves small to medium sized, linear to linear-ob lanceolate, dull gray-green, upper surface minutely puckered and somewhat rough to the touch. A neat little cv. of very slow growth, mature specimens attaining 5 to 6 ft. in height, but only after many years. Possibly a branch sport of 'Myosotifolia'. Sometimes found under the name 'Thymifolia'.

#### 'Suffruticosa'

A low growing sort, its size usually maintained by regular clipping. Leaves medium sized, broad elliptic to ovate-oblong, bright shining green. One of the oldest forms of box in cultivation, long used as a dwarf formal hedge.

The original clone is now more often seen in old gardens and is often replaced in the trade by a number of other, similar (and some not so similar) clones. Slow growing, it will reach at least 5 ft. if allowed to grow unchecked.

#### 'Vardar Valley'

A low growing clone, with leaves medium to large, ovate, oblong to obovate or oblanceolate, dark green. Received from the Arnold Arboretum in 1958 and again in 1961. Originally collected in the Vardar River Valley, Macedonia. A large specimen growing in the Arnold Arboretum is stated to be a low growing shrub forming a mound of green and to have attained 2 ft. in height by 4 ft. through after 20 years.

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## BOXWOOD FARMING IN VIRGINIA

SPURGEON COMPTON

*The South Boston News, South Boston, Virginia*

From 70,000 to 75,000 pounds of boxwood clippings per year is a lot of boxwood.

But, then, twenty-one acres of boxwood containing 20,000 trees is a lot of *Buxus*, perhaps the biggest planting of boxwood in the world grown for clipping. And sixty-one years in such a business is a long time in the life of one man.

All these records are held by F. M. Hickson, Sr., who with his son, F. M., Jr., operates a boxwood farm at Volens, Halifax County, Virginia. The October 1968 number of *The Boxwood Bulletin* reprinted a story that I had written almost a decade earlier about the Hickson business in box and had explained

how that business developed. Here I report from a different slant.

The Hickson box farm is primarily for the cutting and shipping of boxwood sprays to florists in New Jersey, New York, and the New England states. Though boxwood cuttings are in demand throughout the year, the Hicksons cater mostly to the Christmas holiday trade. The busy season for cutting extends from about October 10th to December 10th.

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Above: —

*The F. M. Hicksons, senior and junior, before box interplanted with black locust.*



Mr. F. M. Hickson, Sr., clipping boxwood for sale. The plants are never sheared.

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The Hicksons grow "American box" (*Buxus sempervirens* of Eurasia) of a clone that develops rapidly and remains a dark green. The clippings are harvested from each tree every three years, with a yield of about fifty pounds per plant. The clippings are packed in waxed cardboard cartons designed by Mr. Hickson, Sr., and custom-manufactured for him. The twenty-five-pound cartons are taken to Lynchburg, Virginia, whence they are routed to their destinations by transfer trucks.

Florists hold the sprays under controlled temperature and humidity until used — sometimes a year after purchase. Mr. Hickson envisions a building on the farm wherein clippings might be held until orders are received. This would be of great advantage: the cutting season could be lengthened and the two-months demand for labor alleviated.

Although the rush season is restricted, there is work to be done on the boxwood farm throughout the year. Fertilizer is applied the latter half of February; a mixture of two parts 5-10-5 fertilizer to one part 20.5% nitrogen is used. The amount of the mixture applied is dependent on the size of the plant, with about a pound for a six-foot box used. The Hicksons have interplanted their box with black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*); this legumi-

nous tree serves two purposes: shade to afford winter-greenness in the box; nitrogen-fixing bacteria to live in association with the roots of black locust and make soil nitrogen available to the tree and thus enrich the soil.

To control webworms and psyllids the Hicksons spray their box about May 1st and again about May 15th; formerly they used Sevin, but now Malathion, which is a stronger insecticide.

The Hicksons, in addition to having "American box" for sprays, grow the so-called English box (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*) for landscaping. Cuttings of the latter are placed in hotbeds in August; the beds are then thoroughly soaked and covered with plastic. No further attention is given the cuttings until the following spring when the rooted plants are set in the field. The fast-growing plants are propagated by means of branches that have self-layered themselves. Newly established plants of both varieties are cultivated for several years, but after a good sod has formed cultivation ceases and mowing is resorted to. In dry years the plants are irrigated.



Packing boxwood clippings in the special waxed cardboard cartons devised by Mr. Hickson.

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Mr. Hickson and a brother began shipping boxwood in 1908: they would pay for the privilege of clipping box on various places in Virginia and sell the sprays. During the intervening years there has been no slackening of demand; in fact, the Hicksons have always had more orders than they could fill. Fortunately, each year, additional plants reach a size that can be cut.

Note: The relationship between leguminous plants (alfalfa, clover, pea, bean, lupine, soybean, locust, cowpea, etc.) and the bacteria which grow in the nodules on their roots is usually beneficial to both the legume and the bacterium: the plant supplies certain foods, and the bacterium causes nitrogen to be fixed in the roots in the form of proteins. The relationship is a symbiotic one. Some twenty bacterial-plant groups are known, and, of these, black locust is one. Surely Mr. Hickson was fortunate in his choice of a tree to plant among his boxwoods.

## THE MAIL BOX

A membership renewal letter from Miss Letitia C. Shands of Courtland, Virginia, closed with the inquiry, "Is English boxwood ever trimmed from the inside, just a small twig? We've never done it." Mrs. Kirby sent the question to Admiral Phillips, who answered:

"Dear Miss Shands,

Mrs. Kirby, our Secretary, has forwarded your letter to me. Many thanks for the nice things you have written about The American Boxwood Society.

You inquire if English boxwood is ever trimmed from the inside. Yes, it is. The process is called plucking. It is not done with shears. Instead, you reach into the interior of the plant and pluck out by hand enough twigs and branches to admit light and air. Concentrate on the inside growth, because you wish light and air to reach the center of the plant. Go easy on plucking the outside foliage, to avoid spoiling the appearance of the plant.

The ideal schedule (provided you have the time) is to pluck in early spring, and again in early fall. If plucking is carried out this way, on a regular schedule, then you will need to give only a light plucking each time; and the plant will benefit by having a continuous supply of light and air to its center. However, plucking may be successfully carried out at any time between early spring and early fall. We would not recommend any plucking (or pruning, or clipping — except to remove dead or broken branches) between about October 1 and March 1 because of freezing weather.

Yours sincerely,

Neill Phillips, President

American Boxwood Society"



"English" boxwood in a cultivated field. Sod cover would reduce the splash marks on the plants.

All photographs for this article by J. Beale Chandler, Jr., South Boston, Virginia.

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### WRONG AGAIN: — COVER PICTURE ON APRIL BULLETIN SHOULD HAVE BEEN CAPTIONED: "SOMEWHERE IN VIRGINIA, 1939."

We regret to report that the cover picture of the April Bulletin was erroneously titled as being a garden walk at Castle Hill in Albemarle County, Virginia. The photograph and the identification were supplied by the Virginia State Library, and their records state that the picture was taken at Castle Hill in 1939. Mrs. Clark J. Lawrence, owner of Castle Hill since 1948, says nothing like the picture has been there since then; and her farmer, who has been

at Castle Hill since 1920, says the only crepe myrtles he has ever seen there are the two now in front of the house.

Castle Hill is famous for its boxwood, and we hope to show it to our readers before long. Meanwhile, can anyone set us straight on the cover picture of the April issue? What Virginia garden includes this charming corner, or did in 1939?

# NEW BOXWOOD PLANTINGS IN BALTIMORE

Notes and Pictures by

GERARD J. MOUDRY

Chief Horticulturist, Cylburn Park, Baltimore

We do not have any vast plantings to boast of, but I hope these comments may increase the interest in boxwood in this area, and maybe call to the attention of the public that there is a place in Baltimore City where they can see *Buxus* on display.

We are most fortunate in this area to have close ties with our dear friend Henry Hohman, who has been a tremendous friend to the Bureau of Parks here, and also a great help and inspiration to me personally.

The article enclosed about Boxwood at Notre Dame Preparatory School is a small personal project I have helped with. Sister Mary Gilbert, the first grade teacher at this school, is very much interested in gardening, so I have had much satisfaction in working with her in all phases of gardening. This *Buxus* planting in the courtyard of the school will really improve with age.

I hope that these articles will help in some small way to further the cause of *Buxus*.



Cylburn Park. Border in the center of this picture is planted with *Buxus* 'Vardar Valley' and *Buxus microphylla* '2 A'. Planted since 1967.

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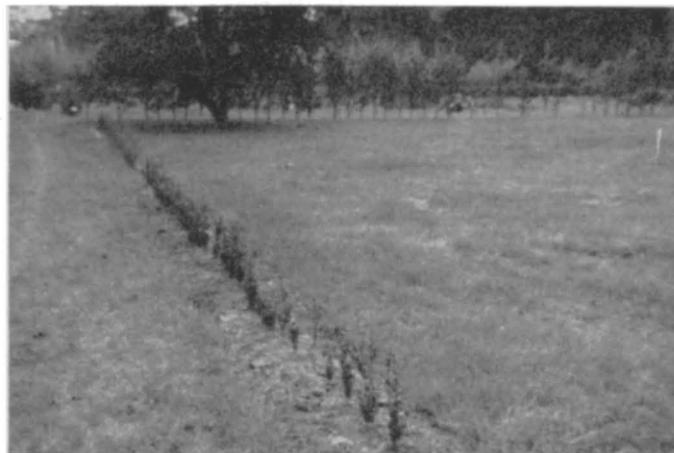
## BOXWOOD AT CYLBURN PARK

The boxwood plantings here are, so to speak, in their infancy. On this old estate built in the late 1800s and purchased by the City of Baltimore in 1942, there exist but a few of the boxwood from the past. Work has been done in recent years in pruning, spraying and fertilization to rejuvenate a few of the old survivors. In this group we find several specimens of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Arborescens' and 'Handsworthii'.

We have been collecting various species and cultivars, and have done a limited amount of planting. A hedge on the south side of the formal garden area is made up of *B. semp.* 'Welleri', 'Hardwickensis', and 'Aristocrat'. (The latter have been grown from cuttings supplied by Dr. Baldwin in November 1966.)

Within the formal garden are planted borders of *B. semp.* 'Vardar Valley', *B. microphylla* 'Green Pillow', and *B. microphylla* '2 A'. In our collection in general we are growing *B.* 'Harlandii', *B. micro.* 'Compacta', 'Winter Green', and many others.

We hope in the next year or so to select an area where all forms that we are growing can be planted



Cylburn Park. Hedge on south side of formal garden area. Planted Spring 1968. In upper left corner can be seen the trunk of an old *B. sempervirens* 'Handsworthii' (planted about 1890?).



*Notre Dame Preparatory School. Buxus microphylla '4 A' that will be espaliered on this wall.*



*Notre Dame Preparatory School. Buxus sempervirens 'Hardwickensis' planted at support posts over side walk. Planted 1966.*

and appreciated as individual specimens by the park visitors. We have little data to supply as far as spraying, feeding and mulching are concerned, but as time goes on we hope to have some records of these procedures.

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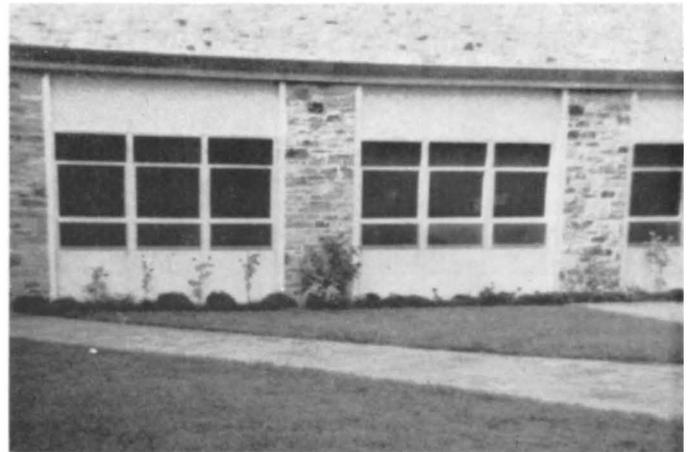
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**BUXUS PLANTING IN THE COURTYARD OF  
NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

located at 815 Hampton Lane, Towson, Md. 21204

This planting consists of plants of *Buxus microphylla* 'Green Pillow' and 'Compacta' which are planted against the panels below the windows. On the west side of the courtyard are stone panels between the windows, and against these are planted *Buxus microphylla* '4 A' which are destined to be espaliered on these walls. At the support posts for the roof over the covered sidewalk are planted *Buxus semp.* 'Hardwickensis'. These I am hoping will make nice specimens at these spots.

This planting was begun in 1964 and has been growing nicely. Periodic mulches of a mixture of sawdust and perlite have been added, and I have tried to feed them each spring with a 10-10-10 fertilizer (Granular).



*The panels below the windows are alternately planted with Buxus microphylla 'Compacta' and 'Green Pillow'. Planted 1964.*

# Birds Feed on Boxwood Leaf Miner

J. T. BALDWIN, JR.

In a letter of 1 March 1969 Henry J. Hohman stated that after fifty-seven years in professional horticulture he is still learning: he has long been troubled with leaf miners on a planting of *Buxus sempervirens* var. *angustifolia* (narrow-leaved box) at the Kingsville Nurseries, but this year, for the first time in his experience, nuthatches have come to his assistance and have methodically pecked the grubs from the plants. The excellent photographs by Col. Donald W. Noake show the ravaged leaves.

Richard Mahone, Assistant Director of Landscape and Maintenance, Colonial Williamsburg, reports that he has frequently seen birds feeding on leaf miners of holly, less often on those of box. But when box has been heavily infested with miner, he has observed warblers, tufted titmice, and chickadees eating the larval stages.

Here in Williamsburg, Virginia, only those kinds of box that put on considerable growth in the spring — and thus have an abundance of tender leaves — have leaf miners in great numbers. *Buxus sempervirens* var. *salicifolia* is among those most severely affected. I recall no instance of miner on *B. sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*, which of course produces little new growth at any time.



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Right, above: —

Leaves of narrow-leaved box torn by nuthatches. Photograph, March 1969, by Col. Donald W. Noake.



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Lower picture: —

Enlarged detail of damaged box leaves. Photograph by Col. Noake.

## COMMON MARIGOLD GIVES SAFE, SLIGHTLY, INEXPENSIVE CONTROL OF NEMATODES

By ELAINE C. CHERRY

Research by Dr. Patrick M. Miller and Dr. John F. Ahrens of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has shown the effectiveness of common marigolds as a biological control of meadow nematodes. Marigold roots produce a chemical that kills nematodes, thereby sharply reducing the population of these root-feeding microscopic eelworms for several years.

No convenient, economical method of controlling nematodes in the home garden is commercially available, the Station scientists say. Methods used on farms and in nurseries are impractical for the homeowner. A planting of marigolds, however, completely eliminates the need for man-made fumigants and has controlled meadow nematodes for as long as three years in Connecticut plantings.

Home gardeners are usually unaware of the stunting caused by nematode infestation because they have no nematode-free plantings for comparison. The damage to farm crops throughout the Northeast, however, is known to be substantial despite regular use of nematicides in special applications.

Marigold roots produce a naturally nematocidal chemical slowly. The marigolds must be grown for a full season to give effective control. Interplanting marigold with another plant gives only limited control the first year, but benefits become apparent when the practice is continued for several years.

Many but not all the plants used in the Connecticut Station experiments grew better when meadow nematodes were controlled. Those showing markedly better growth in nematode-free soil include petunias, zinnias, eggplants, apples, euonymus, English ivy, foxgloves, calendulas, tomatoes, strawberries, and sweet peppers. Petunias showed a dramatic response to nematode control. After seven weeks, plants grown in soil where marigolds had previously been grown were three to four times the size of those grown in nematode-infested soil. For other plants tested, the increase in size ranged from 50 per cent for calendulas to several hundred per cent for zinnias. Dahlias, forsythia, and sweet corn grew well in Connecticut tests in spite of many nematodes in the soil.

A complete report on the Connecticut experiments in biological control of meadow nematodes in gardens will be available about May 20. Requests may be addressed to Publications, Box 1106, New Haven 06504. Ask for *Bulletin* 701.

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## American Boxwood Society

*New Members*

*added since April 1969*

- Allyn, Dr. R. E., 495 North 25th Street, Camp Hill, Penna.  
Anderson, Mrs. Edward, 1234 Rothsay Road, Richmond, Va.  
Barton, Lewis N., 700 S. Stewart Street, Winchester, Va.  
Burton, Mrs. Percy N., 3620 Manton Drive, Lynchburg, Va.  
Darby, Mrs. W. M., 419 Oak Street, Blackstone, Va.  
Deans, Robert B., Jr., Mill Neck, L. I., New York  
Dietz, Mrs. James S., Fancy Free, Rt. 2, Lovettsville, Va.  
Donoho, Mrs. John F., Myrtle Grove, Easton, Md.  
Emmet, Mrs. Eustis, 3323 P Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.  
Fleming, Mrs. Carl, 7901 Riverside Drive, Richmond, Va.  
Frackelton, Robert L., 1714 Greenway Drive, Fredericksburg, Va.  
Hanna, Thomas C., P.O. Box 7, Woods Hole, Mass.  
McDonnell, David, 253 East 61st Street, New York, N. Y.  
Neatrou, John, Blackstone, Va.  
Noake, Col. Donald W., (USA Ret.), 414 S. England St., Williamsburg, Va.  
Norden, Mrs. Carl F., 4055 52nd Terrace, N.W., Washington, D. C.  
Penhole, Mrs. George E., 316 Carson Road, St. Louis, Mo.  
Phillips, Miss Jacqueline B., 1810 Frederick Road, Baltimore, Md.  
Preble, Mrs. Merle Reed, Roxbury Hall, Leesburg, Va.  
Rabb, Mrs. Miriam, Oatlands, Rt. 2, Box 352, Leesburg, Va.  
Rhoads, W. A., 5852 Stow Canyon Road, Goleta, Calif.  
Rogers, Mrs. E. Gorton, 605 Pequot Avenue, New London, Conn.  
Smith, Mrs. Van T., Box 505, Orange, Va.  
Stern, Henry F., Westham Station Road, Richmond, Va.  
Stock, Edward L., Jr., Hanover Farm, Box 36, Beallsville, Md.  
Pittsburgh Garden Center, Mellon Park, 1059 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

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The *Boxwood Bulletin* has received a copy of the above-mentioned *Bulletin* 701, and permission from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to reprint it. Boxwood does not seem to have been used in the Connecticut experiments; it is our hope that some ABS members will try this "companionate planting" with marigolds and boxwood, and give us the benefit of their experiences. Remember to have the soil tested for nematodes first.

# PERSISTENT PESTICIDES

By

PHILLIP H. ABELSON

Editor, *Science*

Controversy over pesticides is heating up. Michigan and Arizona have barred the use of DDT, and, beginning in 1970, Sweden will restrict its application. Secretary Finch has appointed a commission to tell the government what to do about it, and the Food and Drug Administration has seized shipments of coho salmon containing DDT or its derivatives at concentrations of more than 5 parts per million.

Few man-made chemicals have had as profound an effect on human lives as DDT has had. It has been instrumental in saving many millions of lives, in part through control of insect vectors, in part through increased food production. The quality of many crops has been improved greatly through its use, and in some cases yields have more than doubled. Were the United States to stop the use of all pesticides, food prices would rise sharply and supplies of many foods would be inadequate. Although some people might prefer banning all pesticides, the real issues are the choice of pesticides (for example, persistent or non-persistent) and the conditions under which they are to be used. In this controversy, some agriculturalists and industrial interests defend the application of persistent chemicals such as the chlorinated hydrocarbons — DDT, dieldrin, endrin, and others. Conservationists and many members of the concerned public advocate the use of non-persistent chemicals such as the carbamates or the phospho-organics — for example, malathion. The defenders of persistent chemicals point to their effectiveness and low cost. DDT is a relatively inexpensive chemical, and one or two applications may suffice for a season. Much of the cost of using pesticides arises from the labor involved in applying them. Hence, complete abandonment of the chlorinated hydrocarbons now would result in a substantial increase in the nation's food bill.

The defenders of DDT point to the remarkable fact that in 3 decades of use there has been no documented instance in which human deaths have resulted from proper application of the chemical, and relatively few deaths have occurred even with drastically improper use. Moreover, DDT and its relatives are not truly persistent but are slowly destroyed in soil. DDT is slowly degraded in man, and it is also excreted, so that concentrations do not build up indefinitely. Typical human fat contains DDT and its degradation products at concentrations on the order of 12 parts per million.

An undesirable property of the chlorinated hydrocarbons is that they are somewhat volatile and may be carried far from the point of application.

Residues of DDT have been found in seals and penguins in Antarctica. When a farmer in Europe applies the chemical to his crops, some of the molecules are destined to accumulate in you and me.

Part of the current concern about DDT is due to new biological findings in animals other than man. Among the effects demonstrated have been an interference with shell deposition in some birds and an estrogenic stimulus in rats by a component of commercial DDT. Highly controversial is a report, soon to be released, that describes carcinogenic effects of large amounts of DDT in tumor-susceptible mice. Most scientists would agree that use of DDT should be curtailed, and indeed consumption of DDT in the United States has been declining; during the 1967 crop season only half as much was applied as in the peak year of 1959. However, use in other countries is increasing.

Suppression of the application of chlorinated hydrocarbons will not end controversy over pesticides. Unanticipated, possibly dangerous, side effects of the new substitutes will be discovered. Conservationists will continue to criticize, and that will be useful, for all of us have a large stake in the quality of the environment.

— Philip H. Abelson  
Editor, *Science*

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Suggestions were made at the Annual Meeting that the *Bulletin* should make some statement about the use of DDT. We believe that the preceding article (sent in by Dr. Baldwin) deserves careful reading. Mr. Abelson surveys briefly the current position of the DDT controversy, giving us the facts with scientific impartiality. It is always valuable to know where we are, in order to be sure that we move in the right direction. We need to be reminded that DDT has done good work as well as bad.

We repeat that *The Boxwood Bulletin* is a forum for the exchange of opinions, experiences and advice, not a court of final decisions. We are glad to present varied and often contradictory points of view, and should welcome contributions with a new and different slant on any matter relating to boxwood.

# INFORMATION

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- Payment of dues
- Change of address
- Gift Membership
- Ordering back issues of the Bulletin
- Ordering Dr. Wagenknecht's List
- General information about the Society

write to

Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby, Secretary-Treasurer,  
The American Boxwood Society  
Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

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If you have something of real importance — a question of policy, a new project for the Society, a matter which needs top-level consideration, write to

Rear Adm. Neill Phillips, USN Ret'd., President,  
Heronwood,  
Upperville, Virginia 22176

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If you have contributions for the Boxwood Bulletin — articles, news notes, photographs, suggestions of anything of probable interest to boxwood people, it saves time to direct them to

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Editor,  
The Boxwood Bulletin,  
415 West Clifford St.,  
Winchester, Va. 22601

This applies to criticisms and corrections, too — “We regret errors; we welcome corrections.”

### DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are \$3.00 a year. There has been some misunderstanding of the statement that \$2.00 of this are for a subscription to the Boxwood Bulletin. It should instead be understood that the Society allots 2/3 of the money received from dues to the publication expenses of the Boxwood Bulletin.

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 to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Secretary-Treasurer, who, like all other officers of the Society, is an unpaid volunteer.

Single numbers of the Bulletin are \$1.00, plus 5¢ postage, each. 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 \$3.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, \$10.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$100.00; and Patron, \$500.00.

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### DR. WAGENKNECHT'S LIST OF REGISTERED BOX CULTIVARS AVAILABLE IN BOOKLET FORM

“A Registration List of Cultivar Names In *Buxus L.*” by Dr. Wagenknecht, is available in booklet form from The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia. This list originally appeared in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 4, No. 3, January 1965.

The price of the booklet is 25¢ a copy, plus 6¢ a copy postage on a single-copy order or any number through nine. For an order of ten or more copies, the price is 25¢ a copy postpaid.



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