

Boxwood Leafminer

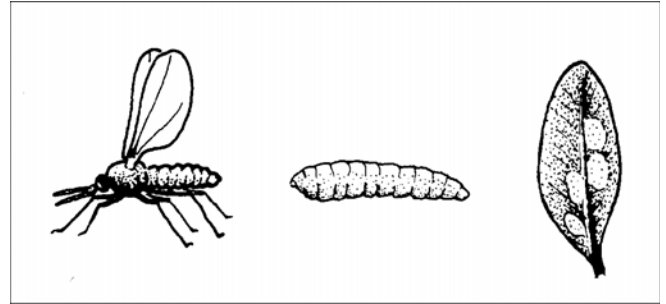
Monarthropalpus buxi

HOST

- **Common Boxwood** (*Buxus sempervirens*)

SYMPTOMS

- Conspicuous egg punctures in leaves. Mines are not evident for several weeks.
- Oval, water-soaked swellings on the lower leaf surface evident from midsummer until shed.
- Infested leaves are spotted yellow and may drop prematurely.
- Continuous infestations result in dead twigs and a weakened plant subject to disease and winterkill.



DESCRIPTION

- **Injurious stage:** Larva. A yellowish-white maggot, 1/8".
- **Monitored/Treatment stage:** Adult. A tiny, yellowish-orange midge (fly), 1/10". (Systemics targeted at young larvae)

LIFE CYCLE

- One generation annually.
- Overwinters as a partly grown larva in the leaves.
- Grows rapidly in spring, transforming into an orange-colored pupa.
- Emerges as a fly in late May to early June over a period of 10-14 days (300-650 GDD).
- Eggs laid deep in the upper side of the current season's leaves.
- Female lays an average of 29 eggs and dies hours after last eggs are laid.
- Eggs begin to hatch about 3 weeks after being laid.

MONITORING STAGE/TIMING/TECHNIQUE:

- **Larvae:** Inspect for presence November through March.
- **Adult:** Set out yellow sticky traps or look for swarms early in the morning. 300-650 GDD, end of May through June, Weigela (*Weigela florida*) and yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea* [formerly *C. lutea*]) beginning through end bloom.
- **Egg:** Check newest leaves for pinholes in late June.

MANAGEMENT

- There are few known natural enemies of the boxwood leafminer.
- Severely shearing the foliage before adult emergence or after egg laying ends will reduce the overall population.
- Plant resistant varieties.

Insect illustration courtesy of Dr. John A. Davidson, Entomology Department, University of Maryland.

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