

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

QUARANTINE ORDER OF	*	
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE,	*	PLANT PROTECTION
STATE OF MARYLAND, TO PREVENT	*	ORDER # 26-01
THE SPREAD OF THE BOX TREE	*	Authority: Agriculture
MOTH IN THIS STATE	*	Article, § 5-304, Annotated
		Code of Maryland

\* \* \* \* \*

QUARANTINE ORDER

**PURPOSE OF QUARANTINE:** Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) is an invasive insect that primarily defoliates boxwoods, *Buxus* spp. The caterpillars rapidly defoliate boxwoods and once it is completely defoliated, the caterpillars then feed on the bark, potentially girdling and killing the boxwood. Multiple generations of Box Tree Moth can occur throughout the growing season, so recovery is not likely with continuous and intensive feeding.

The purpose of this quarantine is to prevent the spread of Box Tree Moth by natural means or through the movement of infested articles.

**WHEREAS,** The Secretary of Agriculture, State of Maryland, has broad powers to control, retard, or eradicate dangerously injurious plant pests; and

**WHEREAS,** An exotic pest, known as Box Tree Moth (Lepidoptera: Crambidae: *Cydalima perspectalis*) has been detected in this State and has a limited distribution at this time; and

**WHEREAS,** The Box Tree Moth has been determined by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to be a destructive pest to the agriculture and horticulture of the State of Maryland and is hereby declared a dangerously injurious plant pest;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kevin Atticks, the Secretary of Agriculture, State of Maryland, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Agriculture Article, § 5-304, Annotated Code of Maryland, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026, hereby **ORDER:** That a quarantine is established, subject to the following terms, conditions, and restrictions:

1. **Quarantine Area.** This quarantine applies to the following Maryland counties: (1) Allegany County, (2) Frederick County, (3) Garrett County, and (4) Washington County.
2. **Quarantine Period.** This quarantine is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded or otherwise modified by the Secretary.
3. **Definitions.** The following terms shall be construed to mean:
  - a. "Box Tree Moth" means the insect known as the Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis* [Lepidoptera: Crambidae]) in any stage of development.
  - b. "Certificate" or "certificate of inspection" means a document issued, or authorized to be issued, by the Secretary, including State-issued certificates of quarantine compliance, State phytosanitary certificates and multiple-use quarantine certificates, to allow the movement of regulated articles to any destination.
  - c. "Compliance Agreement" means a written agreement between a person moving regulated articles and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, wherein the former agrees to comply with the requirements of the agreement.
  - d. "Dangerously Injurious Plant Pest" means any plant pest of quarantine significance.
  - e. "Infestation" means the presence of the Box Tree Moth in any life stage, or the existence of the circumstances that make it reasonable to believe that the Box Tree Moth is present.
  - f. "Inspector" means an employee of the Maryland Department of Agriculture authorized to enforce the provisions of this quarantine.
  - g. "Move," "moved," or "movement" means shipped, offered for shipment, received for transportation, transported, carried, or allowed to be moved or shipped.
  - h. "Person" means any association, company, corporation, firm, individual, joint stock company, partnership, society, or any other legal entity.
  - i. "Quarantine Area" means an area that includes at least one (1) infestation, or that the Secretary considers necessary to regulate because of its inseparability for quarantine enforcement purposes from localities where Box Tree Moth has been found and includes the four Maryland counties noted in Section 1 above.
  - j. "Regulated Articles" means:
    - i. Any life stage of the Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*).
    - ii. The whole plant, plant parts, stumps, roots, branches, leaves, cuttings, debris and nursery stock of the *Buxus* genus, alive or dead, including all species, varieties, or cultivars.
    - iii. Any other article, product, material, or means of conveyance, when it is determined by an inspector to present the risk of spread or is susceptible to infestation by Box Tree Moth.

- k. "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, or his authorized representative.

#### **4. Movement of Regulated Articles**

- a. A person may not move/ship any Regulated Article within or from the quarantine area, except for a person who has been issued Certificates under a Compliance Agreement allowing the movement/shipment provided that:
  - i. All stipulations set in the Compliance Agreement are met and all Regulated Articles have been scouted, trapped, treated and inspected for Box Tree Moth activity prior to shipment;
  - ii. Any life stage(s) of Box Tree Moth found during any inspection are removed and destroyed (A record of such actions shall be kept and recorded);
  - iii. Any infested article(s) found during any inspection are quarantined and treated in a separate area away from the Regulated Articles; and if treatment is not feasible, infested articles are disposed of or destroyed in a manner that does not leave material that may be infested or allow the movement of Box Tree Moth, such as deep burial or incineration (A record of such actions shall be kept and recorded);
  - iv. Regulated Articles, including infested articles, are packaged and safeguarded sufficiently, such as within a closed container, tarp, plastic or similar covering, to maintain isolation from the environment during storage, transportation and disposal; and
  - v. The certificate of inspection is attached to the Regulated Articles or shipping documents and remains attached until the articles reach their final destination.

#### **5. Other Movement Provisions**

- a. A person may not ship Regulated Articles through the quarantine area if the Regulated Articles originate outside the quarantine zone and all the following criteria are met:
  - i. The points of origin and destination are outside of the quarantine area established by the Department, and are indicated on a waybill accompanying the Regulated Article;
  - ii. No point of origin is within an area of the State where the presence of the Box Tree Moth has been confirmed by a federal, state, or other regulatory agency;
  - iii. The Regulated Article is moved into the quarantine area in an enclosed vehicle or conveyance, or is completely covered, such as by

- a tarp, to prevent exposure to the Box Tree Moth (The covering must be kept on the Regulated Article until leaving the quarantine area);
- iv. The Regulated Article is not offloaded within the quarantine area, or no nursery stock of any *Buxus* spp. was added to the shipment within the quarantine area;
  - v. The Regulated Article is moved directly through the quarantine area without stopping (except for refueling, traffic control devices, or emergency conditions) and has been stored, packed, or handled only at locations outside the quarantine area; and
- b. Regulated Articles originating outside the quarantine zone that are not safeguarded during transport into the quarantine area will be considered exposed to infestation and thus may not be transported outside the quarantine area (The regulated articles are then subject to the conditions set in Section 4).

## **6. Recordkeeping**

- a. Documentation of required inspections and compliance measures taken when shipping Regulated Articles, including vehicles and conveyances within or from the quarantine area, shall be kept by each individual, employee, or person moving/shipping Regulated Articles within the quarantine area. These inspections records shall include recording of any life stage finds, method utilized for destruction of Box Tree Moth, treatment of infested articles and method of disposal or destruction of infested articles.
- b. Incoming and outgoing shipment records are to detail the kind and quantity of Regulated Article shipped, shipper name, date of shipment, source or destination information, and corresponding inspection treatment and mitigation records.
- c. Scouting, trapping, inspection, treatment and mitigation records, including dates and outcomes, shall be kept in accordance with this section.
- d. Records are to be maintained for a minimum of 12 months with copies provided to the Department upon request.

## **7. Enforcement and Appeal**

- a. A person may not resist or oppose the Secretary or any authorized inspector in enforcing this Quarantine Order.
- b. An authorized inspector may call upon the assistance of any law enforcement officer to enforce this Quarantine Order.
- c. A person who violates this Quarantine Order is subject to criminal or civil penalties as provided under Agriculture Article, § 5-313 and § 5-314, Annotated Code of Maryland.

- d. Any person who has any questions regarding this quarantine may contact the Plant Protection and Weed Management Office by phone (410) 841-5920, or email [btm.inbox@maryland.gov](mailto:btm.inbox@maryland.gov)

Dated: March 6, 2026



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