



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Buxus microphylla*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

Littleleaf Boxwood is a fine-textured evergreen that tolerates shearing exceptionally well and is commonly used as a border or hedge (Fig. 1). The plant reaches a height and spread of three to four feet. It is best grown where the root zone can be mulched and left undisturbed. This evergreen requires a well-drained soil and prefers shading in winter if grown on exposed sites.

General Information

Scientific name: *Buxus microphylla*

Pronunciation: BUCK-sus my-kro-FIL-uh

Common name(s): Littleleaf Boxwood, Littleleaf Box

Family: *Buxaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 10A (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: border; edging; foundation; superior hedge

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Spread: 3 to 6 feet

Plant habit: round

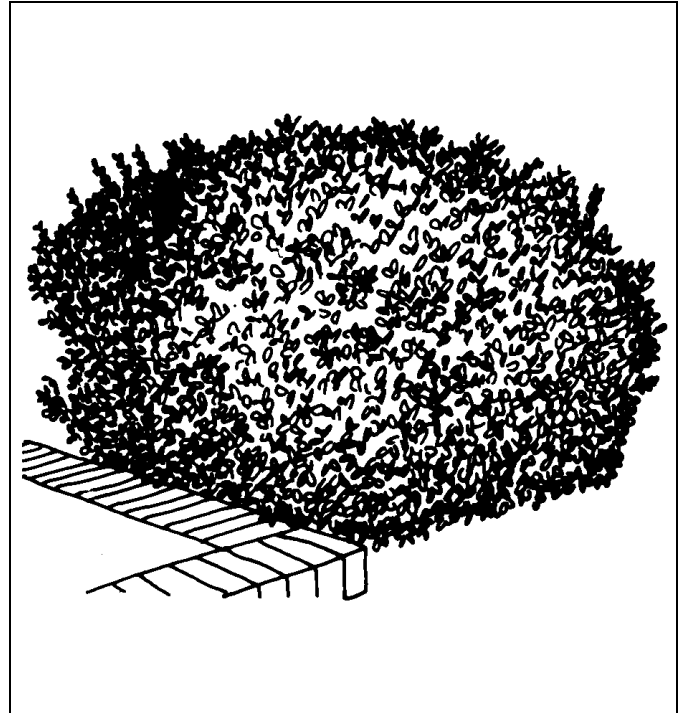


Figure 1. Littleleaf Boxwood.

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: obovate
Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: green
Flower characteristic: spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: irregular
Fruit length: less than .5 inch
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; not particularly showy
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Planted on two-foot centers, a hedge of Boxwood can be maintained at any height. It is particularly suited to small borders or hedges (6 to 24 inches tall) and works well as an edging along paths. Plant is as a facer plant to fill in spaces in a shrub border or along a deck or patio to soften the edge or help provide the feeling of enclosure.

The cultivar listed is tolerant of colder growing conditions: 'Koreana' - hardier than species.

Boxwood leaf miner, spider mites, nematodes, and scale.

Pests and Diseases

Root rot if kept too wet.



Figure 3. Foliage of Littleleaf Boxwood