



***Buxus microphylla*¹**

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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

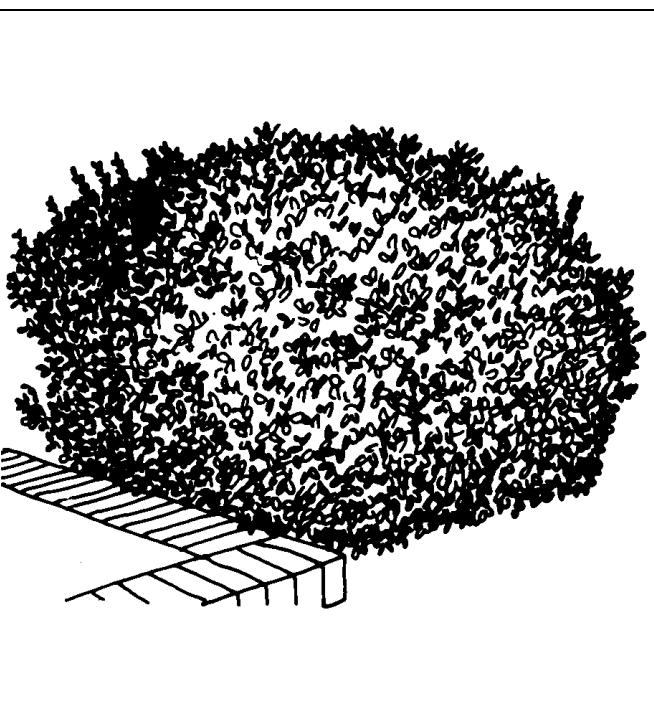


Figure 1. Littleleaf Boxwood.

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

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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