



Boxwood:

Choosing the Best

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS REPORT
2011

UPRIGHT



Dee Runk



Fastigiata



Graham Blandy



John Baldwin

DWARF



Morris Midget



Morris Dwarf



Grace H. Phillips



Green Pillow

DWARF TO BUSH



English (*Suffruticosa*)



Insularis (*Nana*)



Jensen



Justin Brouwers

SHERIDAN/GLENCOE



Green Mountain



Green Velvet



Green Mound



Glencoe [*Chicago Green*]

BUSH



Green Beauty



Jim Stauffer



Vardar Valley



Elegantissima

OTHER



Big Leaf Wintergreen



Little Leaf Wintergreen



Ingليس



American

Boxwood:

Choosing the Best

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS REPORT 2011



Photo courtesy of Horticulture Magazine, Al Parrish photographer

Paul Saunders

COMPILED BY

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Coordinator, National Boxwood Trials

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Boxwood Specimen Comparison

Note: Shapes pictured represent 15 year old plants pruned to our recommendations. Pruning is especially important in the first 3 to 5 years of the plant's life. Shapes will vary with intensity and intent of pruning as the plant grows to maturity.

Dwarf



Dwarf to Bush



Sheridan/Glencoe



Bush



Large



sempervirens
[American]

Uprights



'DEE RUNK'



'FASTIGIATA'



'JOHN BALDWIN'

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS 2011

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More than sixty Boxwood Trial test cooperators from the United States and several international sites present this comprehensive evaluation of boxwood cultivars. With this data, boxwood lovers now have access to information that will allow them to come to a reliable conclusion as to the performance of some of the best boxwood cultivars from the Atlantic seaboard to Mid-America.

DEDICATION of the 2011 *Trials Report*

Dr. Howard A. Rollins, Jr., former Head of the Department of Horticulture at Ohio State University once wrote, “Some of the most important horticultural observations are from every-day growers and horticulturists in the field.” This 2011 *Report* is dedicated in memory of Aubrey Zaffuto and Maury Murray, and in honor of Joan Butler and Charles Fooks, four people who clearly exemplify Dr. Rollins’ words.



Aubrey Zaffuto (r) with two friends from New Jersey.



Maury Murray at his home in Indiana.

Aubrey Zaffuto, a brilliant professional economist with international clients, was a dynamic boxwood enthusiast from Morris County, New Jersey. She was a member of the American Boxwood Society and became interested in the Trials project in its infancy. Aubrey and I spent many, many hours developing the test format for the Trials, and she contributed her observations of the boxwood at her home in the first *Reports*. Her untimely death soon after the Trials began shocked those of us who knew and worked closely with her.

Maury Murray lived on the windswept farmland in southern Indiana, a few miles north of the Ohio River. I heard him speak to the Boxwood Society of the Midwest at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis several years ago. He was inquisitive and fair, and actively sought to add new cultivars to his test plantings. The boxwood at his home and in his gardens, and his lengthy report in this edition, testify to the extent of his enthusiasm. On a visit to his home, he commented to us on the winter hardiness of not only mature plants, but on the amazing survival of liners in the harsh Midwestern winters. He was a great lover of the *Buxus sempervirens* cultivar, ‘Vardar Valley’.

Maury spent the last months of his life close to home caring for his wife who was in ill health. Shortly after her death, he was diagnosed with cancer and died within a few months. His legacy will include his commitment to evaluating boxwood for the growers in the American Midwest.



Joan Butler with one of her favorites, a 'John Baldwin.'

Joan Butler has been a fount of wisdom to boxwood lovers everywhere. This fine lady is unquestionably one of the great authorities on boxwood in the United States. She is not a professional, yet she has made boxwood her profession. In the late 1990s she eagerly helped us select benchmark cultivars for inclusion in the Trials tests.

Joan has been a valuable resource in assessing a plant's worth, correcting and honing our observations. She has also provided invaluable help in editing a number of our boxwood booklets. She lives in Winchester, Virginia, where she has been "mother" to the plantings at the nearby State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy. For several years, Joan furnished data from the Blandy boxwood for the *Trials Reports*. She has rejoiced with us as new cooperators came aboard in our project. We salute her and her fairness and wisdom in evaluating boxwood cultivars.

Charles Fooks of Salisbury, Maryland, is a keen plantsman. He spent weeks during many summers on boxwood-collecting expeditions to Russia, the Ukraine, Greece

and areas around the Black and Caspian Seas. There he and his team searched for promising new cultivars for testing and evaluation so that generations of Americans yet unborn will be able to beautify their landscapes. Charles owns a commercial nursery and has a keen eye for quality. He is an unselfish and likeable man of great understanding, wisdom and integrity. Charles has served on the Board of the American Boxwood Society and also as



Charles Fooks

its president. He has tested many cultivars in his nursery, and is constantly evaluating those that he brought back from his overseas trips. He has generously spent time evaluating many varieties in this and previous *Reports*. We in the boxwood industry are very fortunate to have a man like Charles to walk along this path making evaluations with us.

Paul Saunders

INTRODUCTION



A springtime scene at my home showing eight cultivars of boxwood.

MISSION

The mission of the *National Boxwood Trials* is to evaluate boxwood cultivars in a wide range of microenvironments using two primary criteria, **grower friendliness** and **impulse cosmetics**. This report focuses on plants in the “boxwood belt” from Connecticut to Chicago, then south to near Kansas City, to St. Louis and then south to Memphis and Birmingham, and along the Mid-Atlantic coast. Additionally, there are international participants in the Republic of Georgia, Yalta, and the United Kingdom.

This sixth *Boxwood Trials Report* contains data collected from about sixty sites in the United States and overseas. Since the 2006 edition, we have welcomed new cooperators, and “old” cooperators have re-evaluated their plants. Several new cooperators did not submit data this go-round, but we look forward to their input and observations in future editions. Two of those newcomers are the Spartanburg Community College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

It is important to note that the “approval rating” of some of the cultivars may have changed from previous *Reports*. This could be a result of variations in performance in the same cultivar, different locations in a test plot, or because years of weather factors (severe winters or hot, dry summers), or leaf miner infestations, or other factors have brought out more of the plants’ characteristics, both good and bad.

How can we explain the current resurgence in the popularity of boxwood? It no doubt has something to do with the beauty of the many varieties of this plant, its ability to fulfill a

number of landscape needs, and the fact that ***deer almost never, ever forage on boxwood***.

We are interested in the plants' performance in the many microenvironments across our testing area. "Microenvironment" may be defined as a combination of many factors including the geographical location, the site orientation within the landscape, how much protection from the wind and sun is provided, the soil type, the pH, and, of course, the TLC given by its caretaker.

HISTORY OF TRIALS

In the 1990s our farm was a member of the Pacific Northwest Fruit Testers Association, a group of orchardists who evaluated apples worldwide. It occurred to me, "Why can't we form a group of boxwood enthusiasts to evaluate boxwood?" It was then that The National Boxwood Trials were born. We received advice from many boxwood enthusiasts including Joan Butler, the late Aubrey Zaffuto, Lynn Batdorf of the National Arboretum, and others on the Saunders Brothers team, as well as a host of like-minded folks. Out of the hundreds of available boxwood cultivars, about fifteen "benchmark cultivars" were chosen as reference plants. These fifteen represented varying growth habits and sizes at maturity, and were divided into six general classifications. We categorized the plants' growth habits into uprights, dwarf cultivars, dwarf to bush size cultivars, medium size bush cultivars, northern and Sheridan/Glencoe cultivars, and large cultivars. We suggested each Cooperator choose two or three plants in each category. Most cooperators chose 50 to 60 plants for their Trials block. Since that time, the number of benchmark cultivars has been increased to over twenty. Trials Cooperators determined how many plants they could use or integrate into their landscape or test blocks. They were also encouraged to report on any "sweetheart" boxwood cultivars that were not a part of the original selection.

We were excited when the administrations of the Missouri Botanical Garden and North Carolina State University agreed to join our project. We shipped Trials plants to those participants in 1996 and 1997. As we explained our vision to others, interest grew. Today, participants include twenty major botanical gardens, arboretums and shrines, more than fourteen colleges and universities, plus several agricultural test stations.



A boxwood planting at the Missouri Botanical Garden.



Robert Saunders (left) with Dale Haney, White House Horticulturist (center), and Bennett Saunders, as they discuss which boxwood might be appropriate on the White House Lawn where the President's helicopter's landing path goes over the reflecting pool. The "wind wash" of the helicopter de-nudes the annuals. The staff wants to replace them with a shrub.

Saunders Brothers, Inc., has donated over 3,000 plants to test sites, from liner size to 3-gallon pots and larger. Additionally, individual cooperators have contributed hundreds of plants to their test gardens.

As new cultivars appear on the horizon, cooperators are testing them in their individual plots. We are certain some of these plants will be added to the benchmark cultivars group.

Finally, this *Report* is the result of a team effort by some of the finest, most informed boxwood enthusiasts in the Eastern and Midwestern United States. We thank each of them for their efforts to help horticulturists plant with confidence the best boxwood cultivars for their areas. Anyone interested in being a cooperator may contact me, Paul Saunders, at Saunders Brothers, Inc., in Piney River, VA.

EVALUATION TERMS

The two terms used to evaluate boxwood in this *Report* are "grower friendliness" and "impulse cosmetics." **These two yardsticks of evaluating boxwood can be applied to**

any horticultural product, peaches, apples, annuals, any plant. An impulse cosmetic in horticulture is that quality that either draws or repels a customer. A favorable impulse cosmetic is that magnetic quality that tells a customer, "You cannot live without me." If it is edible, you just have to put it in the shopping cart to carry home; if it is a plant, it is the "WOW!" factor that adds character and impact to a garden. It may be the beauty of the item as in annuals, perennials or other plants; it may be the memory that the item is delicious as in fruits or vegetables, or it may mean that the item, though beautiful, may taste horrible. **Impulse cosmetics** refers to the striking beauty that makes you spin around in your tracks to take another look at it.

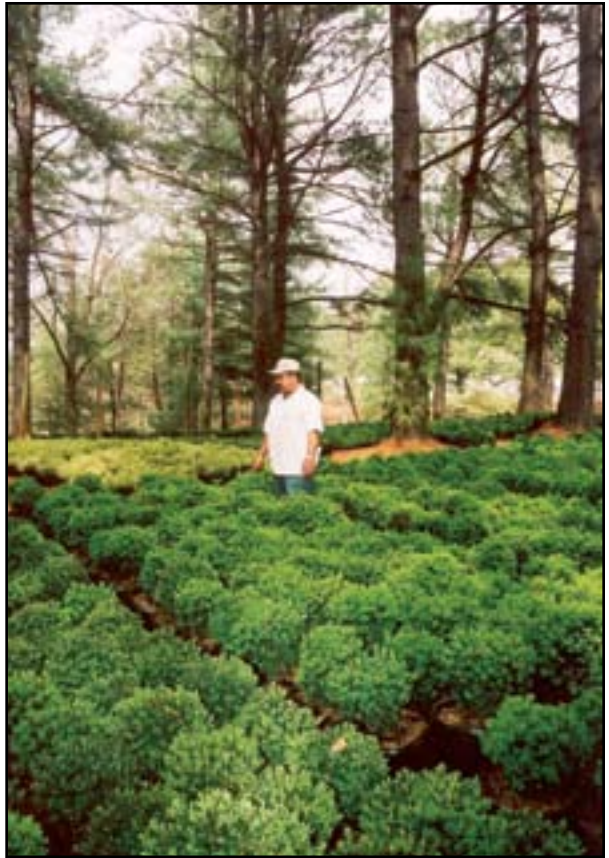
A plant that is **grower friendly** is adaptable to a particular environment and relatively easy to grow by nurserymen, orchardists, gardeners or homeowners. Traits of grower

friendliness include:

- *low susceptibility to disease
- *positive response to varying soil conditions, especially “wet feet”
- *ease of maintenance
- *good performance in both heat and cold

*insect resistance [in boxwood especially, resistance to leaf miner]

These two qualities go hand-in-hand and weigh equally in making a horticultural item desirable or undesirable. The ratings are scored from 1 (the worst) to 5 (superior). Generally speaking, plants that are rated 4 or 5 are doing well and have a high degree of promise. We liken it to two horses pulling a wagon; each of these qualities, impulse cosmetics and grower friendliness, must be equally strong or desirable for the wagon to move along smoothly; in this case, for the plant or product to have value.



‘Suffruticosa’ thriving under dappled shade of pines.



Kingsmill, Williamsburg

Photo courtesy of Luke Donavant

RANGE OF ADAPTABILITY

There is a wide range of performance among cultivars. Some do well in one microenvironment and terrible in another. The goal of the Trials is to identify the plants that do well in a particular microenvironment. A microenvironment may change from one side of the house to another, and often does! Boxwood performance will also vary with the measure of protection afforded by the shade of large trees, versus that of a situation where there is no shade at all.

Due to the many varying factors which affect a plant's performance, it is difficult to make blanket assessments as to the virtues of any particular plant. Only after lengthy and thorough unbiased testing can one comfortably recommend a particular cultivar. Here



Map showing location of some of the test sites in the Eastern United States



again is one of the purposes of National Boxwood Trials, to present data which acts as a tool, so one can make his assessment of the values of a certain cultivar. Furthermore, it is surely advisable to consult local experts in addition to relying on the *Trials Report* when choosing cultivars.

During the first year of testing, some mature plants in a major research block looked awful. In two other locations, we saw these cultivars; they were unimpressive and were suffering from a major infestation of leaf miner there also. However, we observed the cultivar doing well in other sites. Years later when we re-visited the original block (which had since been sprayed), the plants looked far better; the leaf miner was under control. Today this variety is one of the

Megan Lott at Mount Vernon Trials Garden



Photo courtesy of Andrea Filippone

A garden lined with boxwood

better performers if leaf miner is held in check. This experience with leaf miner confirmed to us the potentially disastrous problem created in several cultivars by this insect.

National Boxwood Trials is built around one thought that was expressed to me many years ago by Dr. Armstrong of Longwood Gardens. **In horticulture, “Variety is everything.”** I must add to that a postscript, “*almost everything*”.

RATING OF THE CULTIVARS

The primary purpose of the Boxwood Trials testing is to compare boxwood cultivars with each other. Each cultivar was scored on Grower Friendliness and Impulse Cosmetics. **The average of these two numbers was the score given to a plant.**

The overall average of all scores is noted for a particular plant grown in the Eastern U. S. boxwood growing areas. We then divided this test area into four major geographical regions to give the reader a better idea of how each cultivar generally performs in each region.

Following the U. S. section, there are reports from two sites in the Republic of Georgia. These plants originated as rooted cuttings from Saunders Brothers Nursery in Virginia. Plants sent to the Ukraine were handled through the Nikita Botanical Gardens at Yalta; at present there is insufficient data on these plants for a report. We have, however, included photos taken in the summer of 2010 of boxwood plantings at this site. Also Langley Boxwood Gardens in England has provided photos and data on some of their plants. Cuttings have been sent to China for evaluation but there is no data to report yet from their studies.

The following are the individual test cooperators’ summaries of their data. I have taken liberty in places to do some minor editing of comments.

Paul Saunders

Cooperator	Location	Evaluator(s)	
NORTHEAST REGION			
Asbury Gardens	Oneonta, NY	Brian Fawcett	27
"Boxwood Cottage"	Princeton, NJ	Betsy Wislar	28
Brooklyn Botanic Garden	Brooklyn, NY	Mark Fisher	29
Garden Club of Buzzards Bay	South Dartmouth, MA	Happy Webb	30
Hansen Nurseries	Sassamansville, PA	Rick Hansen	32
Longwood Gardens	Kennett Square, PA	Dr. Tomasz Anisko	33
Morris Arboretum	Philadelphia, PA	Tony Aiello	34
Morris County Park Commission	Morristown, NJ	Pamela Wilson	35
Oak Hill Nursery	Bentleyville, PA	Clyde Weber	37
Penn State University	University Park, PA	Dr. Jim Sellmer	38
Rosedale Nurseries, Inc.	Hawthorne, NY	Richard Schnall	40
Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ	Bruce Crawford	41
Swarthmore College, Scott Arboretum	Swarthmore, PA	Andrew Bunting	42
Temple University	Ambler, PA	Grace Chapman	43
Tendenze Design	Pottersville, NJ	Andrea Filippone	45
University of Connecticut	Storrs, CT	Greg Tormey	47
Wendover Farm	Mendham, NJ	Chris Willemsen	48
MID-ATLANTIC REGION			
Colonial Williamsburg	Williamsburg, VA	Rollin Woolley	49
George Washington's River Farm	Alexandria, VA	James Gagliardi	51
Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Center	Virginia Beach, VA	Marie Dills	52
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden	Richmond, VA	John Wise	54
Montmorenci Tree Farm	Hardy, VA	Sallie Newbill	55
Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon, VA	Dean Norton	56
P & H Nursery	Clifton, VA	Pat and Harry Parr	58
Ross, Marty	Hayes, VA	Marty Ross	60
Saunders Brothers, Inc.	Piney River, VA	Bennett Saunders	62
Smithsonian Institution	Washington, DC	Barbara W. Faust	66
State Arboretum of Virginia	Boyce, VA	Joan Butler	64
U. S. Botanic Garden	Washington, DC	Adam Pyle	67
U. S. National Arboretum	Washington, DC	Lynn R. Batdorf	68
University of Maryland	College Park MD	Luis Alfonso	70
Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, VA	Dr. Alex Niemiera	71
West Virginia University	Morgantown, WV	Dr. John W. Jett	72
Woodland Nursery	Salisbury, MD	Charles Fooks	73
The White House	Washington, DC	Dale Haney	75
Wright, Dr. Robert	Blacksburg, VA	Dr. Robert Wright	77

Evaluator(s)

Auburn University	Cullman, AL	Dr. Jeff Sibley	78
Barlett Tree Research Laboratories	Charlotte, NC	Greg Paige	80
Birmingham Botanical Gardens	Birmingham, AL	Fred Spicer	81
Cheekwood Botanical Garden	Nashville, TN	Sarah Lowe and Patrick Ward	83
Dixon Gallery and Gardens	Memphis, TN	Dale Skaggs and Jesse Howley	85
Huntsville Botanical Garden	Huntsville, AL	Harvey Cotten	86
NC Mountain Crops Research Station	Fletcher, NC	Joe Conner	87
NC State University, Raulston Arboretum	Raleigh, NC	Mark Weathington	88
NC State University, Davis Farm Site	Lenoir, NC	Craig R. Adkins	91
Opryland Hotel	Nashville, TN	Hollis Malone	93
Shadow Nursery	Winchester, TN	Don Shadow	94
University of Tennessee Gardens	Knoxville, TN	Dr. William Klingeman	95

Bernheim Arboretum	Clermont, KY	Eric Garriss	96
"Boxwood Ridge"	Mount Vernon, IN	Maury Murray	98
Chicago Botanic Garden	Glencoe, IL	Tim Johnson	104
Cox Arboretum	Dayton, OH	Richmond Pearson	105
Dawes Arboretum	Newark, OH	Richard Larson	106
Hoffmeister, Sheila	St. Louis, MO	Sheila Hoffmeister	109
Missouri Botanical Garden	St. Louis, MO	Sheila Flinchbaugh	110
Pine View Nursery	Leitchfield, KY	Kevin Collard	112
Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson	Grain Valley, MO	Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson	114
Scarff's Nursery	New Carlisle, OH	Peter Scarff	116
The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	Marcia Farris	117
The University of Kentucky at Princeton	Princeton, KY	Dr. Winston Dunwell	118

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Batumi Botanical Gardens	Republic of Georgia	Zura Manvelidze	122
Tbilisi Botanical Garden	Republic of Georgia	Dr. Marina Mosulishvili	123
Langley Boxwood Nursery	Hampshire, England	Russell Coates	124
Nikita Botanical Gardens	Ukraine		125

Cultivars Rating

UPRIGHT CULTIVARS

Buxus sempervirens 'Dee Runk'

49 Sites 4.37 Rating



A double row of 'Dee Runk,' background, allowed to grow unpruned at Blandy Farm, The State Arboretum of Virginia

A row of 'Dee Runk' in Central Virginia

Northeast (12 sites) 4.28

South (12 sites) 4.67

Mid-Atlantic (16 sites) 4.33

Midwest (9 sites) 4.14

Buxus sempervirens 'Graham Blandy'

34 Sites 3.29 Rating



A row of 'Graham Blandy' at the home of Mrs. Charles Woltz, Charlottesville, VA

Northeast (11 sites) 3.38

Mid-Atlantic (10 sites) 3.55

South (6 sites) 3.63

Midwest (7 sites) 2.50

'Graham Blandy,'
Central Virginia

Buxus sempervirens 'Fastigiata' **45 Sites 4.23 Rating**



'Fastigiata,' Central Virginia

Northeast
(11 sites) 4.24

Mid-Atlantic
(15 sites) 4.30

South
(11 sites) 3.89

Midwest
(8 sites) 4.56



'Fastigiata,' Central Virginia

Buxus microphylla 'John Baldwin' **29 Sites 4.05 Rating**



'John Baldwin,' Central Virginia



'John Baldwin'
(right center)
at Missouri
Botanical
Garden in
St. Louis

Northeast (7 sites) 3.75

Mid-Atlantic (8 sites) 3.75

South (7 sites) 4.50

Midwest (7 sites) 4.25

DWARF CULTIVARS

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf'

41 Sites 3.88 Rating



'Morris Dwarf,' Mount Vernon



'Morris Dwarf,' Central Virginia

Northeast (7 sites) 4.43

South (10 sites) 3.50

Mid-Atlantic (16 sites) 3.91

Midwest (8 sites) 3.81

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget'

37 Sites 3.87 Rating



'Morris Midget,' Blandy



Row of 'Morris Midget,' Central Virginia

Northeast (9 sites) 3.89

South (12 sites) 3.44

Mid-Atlantic (9 sites) 4.14

Midwest (7 sites) 4.25

Buxus microphylla ‘Grace Hendrick Phillips’

43 Sites 4.21 Rating



‘Grace Hendrick Phillips,’ Northern Virginia



‘Grace Hendrick Phillips,’ Central Virginia

Northeast (10 sites) 3.85	South (12 sites) 4.00
Mid-Atlantic (15 sites) 4.48	Midwest (6 sites) 4.54

Buxus microphylla ‘Green Pillow’

33 Sites 4.02 Rating



‘Green Pillow,’ East Garden at the White House



‘Green Pillow,’ Central Virginia

Northeast (7 sites) 4.29	South (10 sites) 3.43
Mid-Atlantic (11 sites) 4.30	Midwest (5 sites) 4.20

DWARF TO BUSH CULTIVARS

Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' [English]

40 Sites 3.41 Rating



'Suffruticosa' at the Arboretum of the Hampton Roads Research Center at Virginia Beach



'Suffruticosa,' Shipman, Virginia

Northeast (10 sites) 2.95

South (11 sites) 3.41

Mid-Atlantic (14 sites) 3.95

Midwest (5 sites) 2.80

Buxus sempervirens 'Jensen'

38 Sites 4.08 Rating



'Jensen,' Lynchburg, Virginia



'Jensen,' Cheekwood, Nashville

Northeast (10 sites) 4.07

South (8 sites) 3.94

Mid-Atlantic (14 sites) 4.07

Midwest (6 sites) 4.29

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers'

51 Sites 4.22 Rating



'Justin Brouwers,' Central Virginia



'Justin Brouwers' on the border, Mt. Vernon

Photo courtesy of Dean Norton, Mt. Vernon

Northeast (13 sites) 4.09

South (12 sites) 4.08

Mid-Atlantic (18 sites) 4.36

Midwest (8 sites) 4.34

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Nana'

35 Sites 3.84 Rating



Insularis 'Nana,' Central Virginia



Insularis 'Nana,' Shenandoah Valley of Virginia

Northeast (8 sites) 4.09

South (10 sites) 3.35

Mid-Atlantic (12 sites) 4.00

Midwest (5 sites) 4.00

SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE CULTIVARS

Buxus x 'Green Mountain'

42 Sites 4.03 Rating



'Green Mountain,' Central Virginia



'Green Mountain,' Central Virginia

Northeast (12 sites) 3.89

South (10 sites) 4.10

Mid-Atlantic (12 sites) 3.77

Midwest (8 sites) 4.53

Buxus x 'Green Mound'

23 Sites 3.62 Rating



'Green Mound,'
Central Virginia



'Green Mound,' Central Virginia

Northeast (4 sites) 2.94

South (6 sites) 3.50

Mid-Atlantic (9 sites) 3.72

Midwest (4 sites) 4.25

Buxus x 'Green Velvet'

40 Sites 3.97 Rating



'Green Velvet,' Central Virginia



'Green Velvet,' Central Virginia

Northeast (10 sites) 4.03

South (9 sites) 3.75

Mid-Atlantic (11 sites) 3.75

Midwest (10 sites) 4.35

Buxus 'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green®]

34 Sites 3.70 Rating



'Glencoe,' Central Virginia



'Glencoe,' Central Virginia

Northeast (8 sites) 3.33

South (8 sites) 3.81

Mid-Atlantic (10 sites) 3.48

Midwest (8 sites) 4.25

BUSH CULTIVARS

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty'

42 Sites 3.78 Rating



'Green Beauty,' Central Virginia

'Green Beauty' planted in old 'Suffruticosa' site in Central Virginia, where the 'Suffruticosa' died from boxwood decline

Northeast (12 sites) 3.52

Mid-Atlantic (15 sites) 4.02

South (11 sites) 3.55

Midwest (4 sites) 4.31

Buxus microphylla 'Jim Stauffer' [Jim's Tru Spreader]

31 Sites 3.96 Rating



'Jim Stauffer,' Central Virginia

'Jim Stauffer,' Central Virginia

Northeast (8 sites) 3.97

South (8 sites) 3.82

Mid-Atlantic (11 sites) 3.91

Midwest (4 sites) 4.38

Buxus sempervirens 'Vardar Valley' **54 Sites 4.37 Rating**



'Vardar Valley,' Central Virginia



'Vardar Valley,' Central Virginia

- Northeast (15 sites) 4.49
- Mid-Atlantic (18 sites) 4.28
- South (11 sites) 4.32
- Midwest (10 sites) 4.40

Buxus sempervirens 'Elegantissima' **43 Sites 3.96 Rating**



'Elegantissima,' Central Virginia



'Elegantissima' at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia

- Northeast (9 sites) 3.77
- Mid-Atlantic (16 sites) 4.05
- South (11 sites) 4.23
- Midwest (7 sites) 3.57

LARGE AND OTHER CULTIVARS

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen' [Big Leaf]

23 Sites 3.88 Rating



'Wintergreen,' Central Virginia



'Wintergreen,' Central Virginia

Northeast (6 sites) 4.15

Mid-Atlantic (8 sites) 3.75

South (5 sites) 4.00

Midwest (4 sites) 3.56

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen' [Little Leaf]

17 Sites 3.81 Rating



'Wintergreen' [Little Leaf] provides edging for this planting at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis



'Wintergreen' [Little Leaf] at Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio

Northeast (3 sites) 4.80

Mid-Atlantic (4 sites) 2.75

South (3 sites) 3.67

Midwest (7 sites) 4.04

Buxus sempervirens [American or Common Boxwood]

34 Sites 3.87 Rating



American boxwood at
"The Cabin" at Ivy Hill in
Central Virginia



A very large American at Carter's Grove in Eastern Virginia
Note Tatum Saunders standing to the right of the plant

Northeast (7 sites) 3.89

Mid-Atlantic (12 sites) 3.71

South (11 sites) 3.93

Midwest (4 sites) 4.19

Buxus sempervirens 'Elizabeth H. Inglis'

20 Sites 3.90 Rating

Note: This cultivar often is referred to in our testing as Elizabeth H. Inglis to better differentiate it from English. Elizabeth H. Inglis is the full name of the person for whom this cultivar was named.



'Inglis' at the Hampton Roads
Agricultural and Research Center
in Virginia Beach



'Inglis' at a home in Central Virginia

Northeast (5 sites) 4.20

Mid-Atlantic (6 sites) 3.75

South (5 sites) 3.50

Midwest (4 sites) 4.25



Boxwood ready to be shipped.



The Pazzaglia Digger; the digging blade resembles a giant ice cream scoop at work.



'Dee Runk' at the former home of Mrs Charles Woltz, Charlottesville, VA.



Rows of boxwood at the East Garden of The White House.

NORTHEAST

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS REPORT 2011

Asbury Gardens

Oneonta, NY

EVALUATOR: Brian Fawcett

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Fastigiata'	5	5	Green-blue leaves; very dark
'John Baldwin'	5	4	Different, very small leaves, loose, irregular shape
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'			Very dark leaves, blue/green
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	
'Green Velvet'	5	5	
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	5	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	Loose, neat, dark green
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Large leaf)	3.5	3.5	Spider mite damage, more noticeable.



A 'Green Velvet' in New York.

GROWER COMMENTS Grower Friendliness: 1 = worst or awful, 5 = superior or very friendly, doing well
Impulse Cosmetics: 1 = worst or unsightly, maybe dead, 5 = very pretty, WOW, Simply beautiful

Photo courtesy of Brian Fawcett.

"Boxwood Cottage"

Princeton, NJ

EVALUATOR: Betsy Wislar

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	Good looking column of green
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	3	Small, not as attractive as some
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	Needs shade
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	5	Great looking small boxwood
'Green Pillow'	4	5	Extremely good looking and elegant in a hedge. Does get winter burn, but worth it
DWARF TO BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	1	2	Too fussy; like a bad date, needs every thing just right or it dies, many other better box
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Looks great trimmed in a hedge or all natural. Love it, can't say enough good stuff about this one
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3	Nice Pyramidal shape
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Jim Stauffer'	4	3	
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Always looks great, strong looking, nice color
'Elegantissima'	4	4	Gets nice comments from visitors
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	5	5	Rock solid, a staple in the garden
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Compacta'	5	5	Great small shrub
'Curly Locks'	3	4	Gets sports that need to be trimmed, looks nice
"Harlandii"	5	5	Amazing plant, can't say enough good stuff about this one. Don't walk, run to get one. Always get comments on how good it looks. My little "Miss America of Boxwood."
'Rotundifolia'	3	3	In deep shade, a little sparse
'Winter Gem'	4	3	

Betsy Wislar



Photo courtesy of Betsy Wislar

Brooklyn Botanical Garden

Brooklyn, NY

EVALUATOR: Mark Fisher

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Graham Blandy'	4	4	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
Insularis 'Nana'	4	4	
'Jensen'	4	4	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	
'Green Velvet'	4	4	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	Used in a high traffic area
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	4	3	Tall plant if not pruned a little; open
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Keats'	4	4	
'Newport Blue'	4	3	
Suffruticosa 'Variegata'	3	3	

Taking notes at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden



Photo courtesy of Brooklyn Botanical Garden

Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay

South Dartmouth, MA

EVALUATORS: Happy Webb

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4+	4	
'Fastigiata'	4+	5	Wonderful dark green color; no bugs.
'Graham Blandy'	3+	5	Impressive statement; does well in our colder climate.
'John Baldwin'	4	5	Easy to propagate, beautiful shape and leaf.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	5	Great color and shape; winters well. No bugs.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	Slow start. No bugs; slight winter yellowing; bounces back in late spring.
'Green Pillow'	5	5	Consistently green, fluffy, beautiful, no bugs.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5	Wonderful great shape, color, size, no bugs.
'Jensen'	4	4	
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Shape, color, impressive statement; does well in our colder climate. Easy to propagate. Everyone's favorite. We have 4 or 5; all are outstanding. Winters well with no bugs.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	Lighter color, bright green. Hardy, no bugs. We have 3 or 4, all doing very well.



'Green Pillow' at Buzzard's Bay test garden

Photo courtesy of Happy Webb, Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay

Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay

South Dartmouth, MA

EVALUATORS: Happy Webb

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Love the open habit; some cupping. WOW, dark green, beautiful, a favorite.
'Elegantissima'	5	5	WOW!
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	3	Yellow, orange in winter. Difficult to propagate. No bugs. Habit less appealing. Looks awful in winter, better by July.
OTHER CULTIVARS			



Magnificent 'Elegantissima' in the center at the Buzzards Bay test garden.

In the boxwood garden of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay. To the right front are three 'Graham Blandy,' in the back left is a handsome 'Fastigiata'.

Photo courtesy of Happy Webb, Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay



Photo courtesy of Happy Webb, Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay

The boxwood furnished for the Trials, all are doing well. 'Dee Runk' seems slower growing and shape is not as "wow" as 'Fastigiata' and 'Graham Blandy'. 'Chicagoland' in two different locations are doing very well. 'Jensen' (we have 3 or 4) very "quiet" but pretty part of our collection. 'Sufruticosas' are beautiful. Visitors notice and admire them. 'Justin Brouwers' is a HUGE FAVORITE. We have propagated from our own plant with great success. Boxwood do very well in our area when planted in the right places. All the shrubs in our specimen garden do well. Many of us have the same varieties in our own gardens and they are also healthy and thriving.

Hansen Nurseries

Sassamansville, PA

EVALUATOR: Rick Hansen

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Fastigiata'	4	4	Good sturdy plant
'Graham Blandy'	3	3	
DWARF TO BUSH			
Insularis 'Nana'	4	5	Does well as a formal hedge
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	Good color, tough
'Green Velvet'	5	5	Very nice plant
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	Nice habit, shiny dark leaves
'Jim Stauffer'	4	3	Very hardy, a little off-color in the winter
'Vardar Valley'	5	4	A real gem, outstanding plant



Photo courtesy of Rick Hansen

Rick Hansen with 'Winter Beauty' in one of his overwintering houses.

Longwood Gardens

Kennett Square, PA

EVALUATOR: Dr. Tomasz Anisko

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]		2.5	Variable yellowing, dead patches, short compact form
'Justin Brouwers'		3	Lighter green color; upright foliage, compact
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Velvet'		3.5	Cupped foliage, more noticeable than others, gaps
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]		3.5	Nice compact growth, some with open clumps
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'		2	Cupped foliage very noticeable, bare stems, looks messy with some browning leaves. Most insect damage.
'Vardar Valley'		3.5	Nice lush foliage, more open branching in some area, large, spreading form.



Buxus sempervirens at Longwood Gardens.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Tomasz Anisko



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tomasz Anisko

Dr. Tomasz Anisko, left, with Charles Fooks evaluating a boxwood cultivar in the Republic of Georgia in Central Asia in 2001.

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

EVALUATOR: Tony Aiello

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'		5	Beautiful plant, withstands exposure and high heat, but new growth flops until hardening off.
'Graham Blandy'		2	Off-site location; heavy leaf miner damage.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'		4	Very nice plant; pest and disease-free
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Justin Brouwers'		5	Excellent; nice, bright foliage and great dense habit.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'		2	Chlorotic; has dropped a lot of foliage.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
B. sinica var. 'Insularis'		4	Nice foliage and habit; does have significant psyllid population.
B. 'Rotundifolia'		3	Nice clean foliage, but sparse pyramidal habit not particularly attractive.



Anthony S. (Tony) Aiello, Director of Horticulture & Curator of the Morris Arboretum with daughters Elizabeth (standing) and Katherine. Pictured is a 'Dee Runk,' a variety Aiello feels is "truly outstanding."

Photo courtesy of Tony Aiello

Morris County Park Commission, Willowwood

Morristown NJ

EVALUATOR: Pamela Wilson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	7 plants on the grounds, all doing good except for 2 planted in really crummy soil
'Fastigiata'	5	5	5 plants on the grounds, all doing extremely well
'Graham Blandy'	5	5	9 plants on the grounds, all doing extremely well
'John Baldwin'	5	5	1 at Frelinghuysen doing very well
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	5	5	10 plants on the grounds, all doing extremely well
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	2 plants on the grounds, both doing extremely well
'Green Pillow'	4	4	8 plants on the grounds, 6 doing well, 2 doing fair (could be poor soil)
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5	3 plants on the grounds, all doing extremely well
'Jensen'	5	5	2 plants on the grounds, both doing extremely well
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	6 plants on the grounds, excellent plants
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	4 plants on the grounds doing very well
'Green Velvet'	5	5	117 plants on the grounds, excellent for sun or shade, best cultivar in my opinion

Pamela Wilson
at Willowwood
Arboretum, Far Hills,
N.J., with a 'Graham
Blandy' planted in 1994.



Photo courtesy of Willowwood Arboretum

Morris County Park Commission, Willowwood

Morristown NJ

EVALUATOR: Pamela Wilson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	5	5 plants on the grounds doing very well
'Jim Stauffer'	5	5	3 plants on grounds/they always look good
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	6 plants on the grounds growing very well, but not as attractive of plants as some of the other cultivars
'Elegantissima'	5	5	About 100 on the grounds - public loves them
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	5	
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	5	5	
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	5	5	6 plants on grounds, all doing very well
Sempervirens [American]	3	3	Not as nice/we have numerous forms
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Harlandii'	5	5	Excellent plant; should be grown more. We have 4 on the grounds/unique boxwood shape
'Curly Locks'	4	4	Always looks like it might have a disease with the foliage different/good grower
'Franklin Gem'	5	5	Only one on the grounds, but it has performed very well
'Winter Gem'	5	5	5 plants on grounds/they do very well
'Appalachian Pyramid'	5	5	2 plants on grounds/does very well
'Tide Hill'	4	4	We have a number of old plantings of this from 1940s and '50s. Now experiencing a lot of dieback or disease in the mass plantings.



Photo courtesy of Brooklyn Botanical Garden

A boxwood planting in Brooklyn, NY.

Oak Hill Nursery

Bentleyville, PA

EVALUATOR: Clyde Weber

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics

UPRIGHT CULTIVARS

'Dee Runk'			Very good. Better than 'Graham Blandy'.
'Fastigiata'			Very good. Better than 'Graham Blandy'.
'Graham Blandy'			Normal discolored tips.

DWARF TO BUSH

'Justin Brouwers'			This variety needs special protection to survive when young, but after becoming established with sufficient root system, it keeps its black-green foliage throughout winter and begins the spring in top-notch appearance. This year some established plants had severe freezeback to the point of creating misshapen plants.
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SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE

'Green Mountain'			Normal good color to adverse discoloration.
'Green Velvet'			Equal to 'Green Mountain'.
'Green Mound'			Better than 'Green Mountain' or 'Green Velvet'
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]			Worse than 'Green Mountain' or 'Green Velvet'.

OTHER CULTIVARS

'Tide Hill'			Normally this cultivar just freezes back and recovers to a beautiful plant. After several years of this, the result is a broad flat-top plant. This year a very significant number died while others suffered the normal freezeback. Most, but not all of those that died were located about 100 yards distant and 10 to 20 feet lower in elevation.
'Andy Tarnik'			Hardly a discolored leaf. This has been its normal performance since acquired in 1997.

Clyde Weber in his boxwood garden.



Photo courtesy of Clyde Weber

Penn State University

University Park, PA

EVALUATOR: Dr. Jim Sellmer

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Still my favorite upright, definitely a "keeper."
'Fastigiata'	5	4	
'Graham Blandy'	3	3	Doing better in new location with greater protection, not as dark green as 'Dee Runk' or Fastigata, rather tarnished green. Pencil-thin, which is interesting.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	5	A "keeper", great color, clean foliage, maintaining form.
'Morris Dwarf'	5	4	Still looking good, top died out of one, but nice color, tight form, clean foliage.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Good color and form. Good in small beds.
'Green Pillow'	5	5	A "keeper". Tight, good color, clean leaves. Very nice overall.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	4	Doing well in new location, nice background plant.
Insularis 'Nana'	5	4	Losing my interest. More psyllid this year. OK but not WOW.
'Jensen'	5	5	Turn around. The last surviving plant looks great and is surviving well in new location. Very pleased. Would like to re-acquire and re-evaluate from beginning.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Nice character! A definite "keeper" for me. Good color, nice form, clean foliage, tight growth.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3	Becoming open, losing ground with age.
'Green Velvet'	4	3	Tip dieback, foliage not clean and crisp, heavy psyllid activity.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	2	New site has taken toll, tarnished leaf. Not holding up for us at this point.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	3	Heavy psyllid, not a crisp plant.
'Jim Stauffer'	5	4	Opening up with age. Still good, nice filler.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	My favorite bush cultivar. A definite "keeper" in my opinion.
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Remains interesting in the landscape, holding form, variegation remains striking although more creamy white and green than bright white. No psyllid to speak of.

Penn State University

University Park, PA

EVALUATOR: Dr. Jim Sellmer

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	3	OK. Still glossy but not a standout these days.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	5	4	Opening up with age. Deep green. Good filler and background.
Sempervirens [American]	4	3	Very open habit.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Green Ice'	5	4	Holding up better than 'Green Beauty' and 'Wintergreen' in similar new location along walkway.
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS			

The site was moved from the Trial Gardens to between two buildings on campus in summer 2006 without proper preparation and limited post-planting care by our grounds crew. This has taken its toll on some plants (e.g., 'Glencoe', 'Wintergreen', one 'Nana', and one lost 'Dee Runk'). It was a positive change for others (e.g., 'Graham Blandy'). The site is much more protected from wind, also more shade (conifer and shade trees). In some cases, maybe too much shade. Exposure is mostly S-SE.



This seems to have been a big psyllid year. I have noted the severe or heavy infestations above. 'Green Mountain,' 'Wintergreen,' 'Insularis,' 'Fastigiata,' 'Dee Runk,' 'Jim Stauffer,' 'Vardar Valley' showed moderate infestations. 'Suffruticosa,' 'Elegantissima,' 'Jensen,' and 'Elizabeth Inglis' showed low infestations. 'Justin Brouwers,' 'Morris Midget,' 'Morris Dwarf,' 'GH Phillips,' and 'Green Pillow' were psyllid-free.

Dr. Jim Sellmer with a 'Justin Brouwers' in his first test garden at Pennsylvania State University.

Rosedale Nurseries, Inc.

Hawthorne, NY

EVALUATOR: Richard Schnall

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	3	3	
'Fastigiata'	3	3	
'John Baldwin'	2	2	Burns, needs a protected area
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	1	2	Burns every year
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	1	1	Burns badly, high mortality
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	2	2	Mortality higher than others
'Jensen'	3	3	Burns to snow line
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Velvet'	5	5	Does not burn; easy to grow
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	5	Slow growth rate, nice color, full
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	5	Will burn if left uncovered
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	4	5	Will burn if in an unprotected area
Sempervirens [American]	3	5	Does well in winter if covered
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Insularis'	3	4	Nice plant, have had trouble getting height due to top burn
'Green Ice'	5	5	Nice color, very full, tolerates cold
'Green Gem'	5	5	Does not burn

Paul Henke,
superintendent at
Rosedale Nurseries, Inc., with
Buxus 'Glencoe'.



Photo courtesy of Richard Schnall

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

EVALUATOR: Bruce Crawford

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4.5	4.0	Going to be a winner
'Fastigiata'	4.5	4.0	Keeper
'Graham Blandy'	3.8	3.5	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	5.0	5.0	Nice plant
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3.5	3.5	No leaf miner (concerned with hardiness; some in test died)
Insularis 'Nana'	4.5	4.0	Seems to possibly be a winner
'Jensen'	4.0	4.5	Looks good.
'Justin Brouwers'	3.8	4.0	Moderate leaf miner
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	3.5	2.5	Open and unsightly; full of insect damage.
'Green Velvet'	3.5	3.0	Severe leaf miner
'Green Mound'	3.5	2.0	Unsightly
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4.5	3.8	Needs shaping
'Jim Stauffer'	4.5	4.0	Minor leaf miner
'Vardar Valley'	5.0	5.0	Zero leaf miner; large, handsome, older specimens have proven its class and value; super!
'Elegantissima'	2.8	2.0	Unsightly

**Bruce Crawford at
Rutgers University
Boxwood Trails
Garden.**



Swarthmore College Scott Arboretum

Swarthmore, PA

EVALUATOR: Andrew Bunting

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Beautiful form
'Graham Blandy'	3	3	Some leaf miner damage
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Jensen'	5	5	
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	A little leaf miner damage
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	Slight leaf miner damage
'Green Velvet'	2	2	A lot of leaf miner damage
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3	3	Some leaf miner damage
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Beautiful form and dark green foliage
'Elegantissima'	3	3	Some leaf miner damage
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	4	
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Pyramidalis'	5	5	
'Longwood'	5	5	
'Newport Blue'	5	5	

Andrew Bunting and Claire Sawyers
with Buxus 'Green Mountain' at
Scott Arboretum.



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Robert, Scott Arboretum

Temple University

Ambler, PA

EVALUATOR: Grace Chapman

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	3.3	3.5	Beautiful upright habit, holds shape well without pruning.
'Fastigiata'	2.8	3.3	More susceptible to winter storm damage than 'Dee Runk,' branches bend and lose their upright form due to ice.
'Graham Blandy'	1	1	All plants died.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	4	Look very much like 'Morris Dwarf' and are indistinguishable in our trials.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Nice round, compact shape, very little pruning required to maintain shape.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4.7	4.7	Perfect compact, round shape without pruning. Beautiful bright green leaves.
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Nice compact habit, bright green foliage, little to no pruning to maintain shape.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3.5	3.5	The plants that have survived look healthy.
Insularis 'Nana'	3.5	3.5	Performed well when sheltered.
'Jensen'	3.4	3.4	Outside looks good with a few small dead spots. Significant dieback inside.
'Justin Brouwers'	3.5	4	Layered appearance, nice small leaves.

Jennifer Johnson,
a Temple University
student who helped
with the Report.



Photo courtesy of Grace Chapman

Temple University

Ambler, PA

EVALUATOR: Grace Chapman

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	3.7	3.7	Nice compact shape, needs a small amount of pruning.
'Green Mound'	1	1	All plants died.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	2.5	2.7	Branches tend to separate with age showing bare spots.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	1.8	1.8	Leggy plant, sprawling habit, shoots have many bare spots, very ugly.
'Jim Stauffer'	3	4	Shape is inconsistent.
'Vardar Valley'	3.5	4.2	Beautiful blue hue to leaves. Blue is more prevalent in full sun, more green when shaded.
'Elegantissima'	2.5	2.5	Shape is more conical.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	3.3	3.5	All plants performed well and were very healthy, but it won't wow customers. Sprawling habit was unattractive.
Sempervirens [American]	3.7	3.7	Needs pruning to maintain shape.



Photo courtesy of Grace Chapman

Grace Chapman, Horticulture & Landscape Arboretum Supervisor at Temple University.

Tendenze Design

Pottersville, NJ

EVALUATOR: Andrea Filippone

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	4	Hard to tell the difference between 'Dee Runk' and 'Fastigiata' at an early age.
'Fastigiata'	5	4	Gets a bit leggy. Finally learned from Paul to cut the leader to make the shrub fill out a bit. It works very well. Nice green throughout the winter.
'Graham Blandy'	5	5	I have not grown this plant very long (1 year) but I like the tall slender quality of this plant. If it begins to fan out as it gets older, I guess I would recommend adding some string to the interior to help it hold its shape. But it is the only boxwood we have with this form-so I like it so far.
'John Baldwin'	5	3	Too small to see anything.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	Love this plant. Stays green and small. No pest damage.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Love this plant. Stays green and small. No pest damage.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	5	Love texture of this plant. Stays green and small. No pest damage.
'Green Pillow'	4	5	Love this plant. Stays green and small. No pest damage.



Conservatory and reflecting pool lined with 'Justin Brouwers'.

Photo courtesy of Andrea Filippone.

Tendenze Design

Pottersville, NJ

EVALUATOR: Andrea Filippone

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	1		Does poorly in the sun and in windy spots. Does well under pine trees.
Insularis 'Nana'	3		Browns badly in the winter for the first two years in a new location. I plant in full sun. After two years it acclimates well and stays green.
'Jensen'	5	5	Just a beautiful plant. Love the blue tinge that the leaves hold. Great replacement for 'Suffruticosa' as an edging plant. Stays tight but not as tight as 'Suffruticosa'. This should be used more often!
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	A lot of dieback the first two years; other than that, a spectacular plant. Great replacement for 'Suffruticosa' as an edging plant. Great green color throughout the winter. Great natural pillowing effect as they get larger.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	4	Extremely easy plant to grow. Little maintenance, no pests.
'Green Velvet'	5	3	This plant is very hardy and tolerant of wet areas. Where I have them planted gets flooded several times over the year and they are doing very well. No evidence of any pests.
'Green Mound'	5	5	Perfect round habit.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	2	3	It was hit with a very bad case of leaf miner and passed on to the 'Justin Brouwers' which were adjacent. Seems very hardy.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	3	Too open a habit for me, gets leggy. Limey green color.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Love this plant. The bluish color and habit of this plant is amazing. I expect the plant to get very big over time.
'Elegantissima'		3	I think this is a difficult plant to survive long term. But that is true for most variegated plants. They brown and do not do well in a drought. I find it prefers a protected spot with not too much wind.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Appalacia'	4	4	If not pruned, a bit leggy. Very susceptible to leaf miner and psyllid. Can brown the first winter or if you move it. But it can be a very large tall shrub.
'Compacta'	4	4	The smallest and tightest plant. Love it. No pests.
'Ipek'	5	5	I love this plant. It is an upright but have to wait till it gets older to really see its real structure. So far the branching is horizontal and open.
'Winter Gem'	4	2	Ugly plant. Turns brown in the winter. I gave it fish emulsion and it does less browning. But it is very leggy. Nursery men like this plant because it grows fast. That is its only redeeming factor.

University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT

EVALUATOR: Greg Tormey

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4.5	3	
'Fastigiata'	4.5	4.25	Good color
'John Baldwin'	3.5	3	Leaf miner damage
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	3	3	
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4.75	4.75	Excellent
'Green Pillow'	3	3	Acceptable, ok, pretty
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	1	1	All died
Insularis 'Nana'	5	5	No leaf miner, great plant, winner
'Justin Brouwers'	5	4	Really like this
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	2	2	Stemmy; much leaf miner
'Green Mound'	3.5	2.5	Shoddy, open
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	1	1	Much leaf miner
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3.5	3	Stemmy; leaf miner
'Jim Stauffer'	3.5	2.5	Too open; unsightly
'Vardar Valley'	4.5	4.5	That's a nice plant! Large older plant is outstanding (rated a "5")
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	5	We have 7 Wintergreens but unsure if big or small
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	5	5	
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	5	5	6 on grounds, all doing very well
Sempervirens [American]	3	3	



Dr. Edward Corbett and Greg Tormey with test plants at the University of Connecticut.

Wendover Farm

Mendham, NJ

EVALUATOR: Chris Willemssen

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	4	Beautiful plant, limited appeal to customers
'Fastigiata'	5	4	Beautiful plant, limited appeal to customers
'Graham Blandy'	4	3	
'John Baldwin'	3	3	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	5	
'Morris Dwarf'	5	5	
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	1		Not a good choice for Zone 5, yellows, burns
DWARF TO BUSH			
Insularis 'Nana'	4	4	
'Jensen'	2	2	
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Best variety on market; everyone's favorite
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	4	Strong, reliable
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Jim Stauffer'	5	4	Reliable
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	No winter discoloring
'Elegantissima'	4	4	Limited customer appeal
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	5	5	Great color all year. Vigorous.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Latifolia Maculata'	5	5	Lovely, underused; great spring color.
'Rotundifolia'	5	5	Bold, strong, retains good color
Insularis 'Tide Hill'	4	5	Loose habit is appealing; some winter color
Microphylla 'Compacta'	5	5	Popular with rock gardeners; slight winter yellowing.

Chris Willemssen



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chris Willemssen

MID-ATLANTIC

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS REPORT 2011

Colonial Williamsburg

Williamsburg, VA

EVALUATOR: Rollin Woolley

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	3	
'Fastigiata'	4	4	
'Graham Blandy'	4		
'John Baldwin'		3	One site has 4 plants with moderate mite damage this year and slight leaf miner
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	
'Green Pillow'	4	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	4	
Insularis 'Nana'	4	4	
'Jensen'	4	3	
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	

Rollin Woolley in one of Colonial Williamsburg's gardens.



GROWER COMMENTS Grower Friendliness: 1 = worst or awful, 5 = superior or very friendly, doing well
Impulse Cosmetics: 1 = worst or unsightly, maybe dead, 5 = very pretty, WOW, Simply beautiful

Colonial Williamsburg

Williamsburg, VA

EVALUATOR: Rollin Woolley

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3	Had one plant with severe mite damage (only one in the group).
'Green Velvet'	4	4	
'Green Mound'	4	4	
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	
'Jim Stauffer'	3	4	Seems to be prone to leaf miner and doesn't do well under some oaks.
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	
'Elegantissima'	4	4	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	3	3	
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Rotundifolia'	2	2	Off-color and looking chlorotic among other varieties that are green.
'Green Gem'	2	2	Doesn't do well on stressful sun sites with swings in moisture levels.
'Green Pillow'	4	4	



A handsome English boxwood in Williamsburg.

Walkway flanked by English boxwood

George Washington's River Farm

Alexandria, VA

EVALUATOR: James Gagliardi

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Great form and very easy
'Fastigiata'	5	5	Great form and very easy
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	Often find browning cluster of leaves at tips, but they seem to brush off.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Jensen'	5	5	
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Very good consistent shape.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	3	3	Seems that they might have some problems with yellowing/disease in our garden.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	5	
'Jim Stauffer'	3	3	Only ones in the collection that seem to suffer from sunscalding in the winter.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Nice clean deep green foliage set it well among the others.
'Elegantissima'	4	4	Great foliage but plants seem to grow inconsistently in hedge.



In the boxwood garden at River Farm

Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Center

Virginia Beach, VA

EVALUATOR: Marie Dills

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Dark green, good shape, very good.
'Fastigiata'	4	5	Double leaders, still looks good.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Irregular.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	5	Nice shape.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5	
Insularis 'Nana'	5	5	Distinctive foliage, very good shape.
'Jensen'	3	2	2007, beautiful; 2008, center died.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Few leaf miners. Great.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	Nice shape. Leaf miners.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Dark green. Good shape.
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Winter extremes—terminal leaf drop (came back).



Row of test plants at Hampton Roads



Marie Dills at Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Station with two handsome 'Dee Runk' plants in the test row.

Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Center

Virginia Beach, VA

EVALUATOR: Marie Dills

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	3	4	Loose, irregular.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	4	Spider mites and leaf miner.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Upright'	4	3	Dull color—average.



'Vardar Valley,' in an open exposure at Hampton Roads Research Center. Dark rich color with no leaf miner.

Marie Dills inspecting a 'Green Beauty' at the test site at the Hampton Roads



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Richmond, VA

EVALUATOR: John Wise

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	
'Fastigiata'	4	4	
'John Baldwin'	3	3	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
Insularis 'Nana'	3	4	
'Jensen'	4	4	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	
'Elegantissima'	4	4	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	4	
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	4	4	



John Wise

Montmorenci Tree Farm

Hardy, VA

EVALUATOR: Sallie Newbill

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Fastigiata'	5	5	Survives even Virginia's droughts.
'Graham Blandy'	4	4	Suffers some wind burn.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5	Always the queen of boxwood.
Insularis 'Nana'	5	5	Wonderful form and body.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Truly a great plant, a real beauty.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	3	3	Requires trimming of horns for a uniform look.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	Also grows horns, but a good plant.
'Vardar Valley'	3.5	3.5	
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Eye-catching and rapid growth.



Sallie Newbill surrounded by 'Insularis' (Nana).

Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon, VA

EVALUATOR: Dean Norton

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4.5	4.5	Planted in containers with flowers around them, they look fabulous and have no problems. They are placed in an unheated hoop house during the winter. The branches stay nice and tight.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Each year some reversion shoots need to be removed. Prunes well, has no disease or insect issues. Does yellow out in the fall and winter. Planted in a harsh and disease-rich environment, and they have survived beautifully.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4.5	Great looking, very compact plant. Gets little care or no water yet continues to do beautifully. It is in partial shade.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Justin Brouwers'	3.5	3.5	Planted in a formal parterre situation, was pruned heavily this spring and has leafed out beautifully. No leaf miners as of yet, and they are very disease-resistant and do very well in harsh locations.



Photo courtesy of Dean Norton of Mt. Vernon

One of the gardens on the grounds of Mount Vernon. The plants in the center are 'Morris Dwarf,' on the perimeter are 'Justin Brouwers'.

Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon, VA

EVALUATOR: Dean Norton

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
'Jensen'	4	4.5	Great leaf color and fullness. Can have phytophthora issues if left in the pot too long. Ten plants were planted in full sun, with a known disease presence and have received no care and have done beautifully. Five plants placed in dense shade also receiving little care are all but gone, a bit perplexing. Plan to use the 'Jensen' as the replacement for the dwarf English box throughout the pleasure garden at Mount Vernon when the restored landscape is planted.
'Green Mountain'	3.5	3.5	Very nice plant; has an open habit of growth.
'Green Velvet'	4	4	Very impressed with the look and the ease of care of this plant.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	3.5	3	Another option of box for the homeowner or landscaper. Looks good, does fine; just not wowed by the form.

BUSH CULTIVARS

'Jim Stauffer'	4	3.5	Does not seem to be spreading as much as we would have thought. Has a looser habit of growth than 'Green Beauty'. No disease or insect problem.
'Vardar Valley'	4	3.5	Great-looking plant and very hardy. Does have an open habit of growth if left unpruned.



Photo courtesy of Dean Norton of Mt. Vernon

'Dee Runk' in pots outside of Mount Vernon Inn complex. Seasonal flowers are planted around the base of the pots.



Photo courtesy of Dean Norton of Mt. Vernon

This row of 'Jensen' was planted in an area that was heavily infected with English boxwood problems. They have done so well that 'Jensen' will now be used extensively in some of the new gardens at Mount Vernon.

P & H Nursery

Clifton, VA

EVALUATOR: Pat & Harry Parr

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	Plant has to age to look nice; customer favorite.
'Fastigiata'	5	4	Plant has to be several years old before it looks nice.
'Graham Blandy'	3	4	Does better in dry environment.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Very hardy. Spotty brown patches when exposed to a lot of sun.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	4	Great shade plant, a favorite.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3	4	Disease prone.
'Jensen'	3	4	Same problem as English.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Very hardy, grows in ball shape, favorite. Does not like excess water.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	4	Nice plant, requires pruning, sun or shade. Prone to leaf miner.
'Green Mound'	5	4	Nice plant, requires pruning, sun or shade, but does better in sun. Prone to leaf miner.



Photo courtesy of P & H Nursery

'Grace Hendrick Phillips' and 'Justin Brouwers' at P & H Nursery.

P & H Nursery

Clifton, VA

EVALUATOR: Pat & Harry Parr

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	4	3	Plant requires some maturity and pruning before being saleable.
'Elegantissima'	3	4	More difficult to root. Requires pruning. It is striking to lighten up an area. Keeps better color with some shade.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
common semperv [American]	4	4	Prone to leaf miner.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Winter Gem'	5	3	Requires pruning, very hardy.



Espaliered 'Fastigiata,' 'Morris Dwarf,' 'Green Mountain' and other varieties.

Pat Parr with 'Justin Brouwers'



Photos courtesy of P & H Nursery

Marty Ross

Hayes, VA (Tidewater area)

EVALUATOR: Marty Ross

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Young plants grow relatively fast and have excellent form. Tolerates deep shade.
'Fastigiata'	5	4	Very good looking, not as shapely as 'Dee Runk'. Excellent salt tolerance.
'Graham Blandy'	4	5	We grow GB in Kansas City, where it grows slowly and looks smashing. We have to twist a line of green twine around it, like a peppermint stick, to support loose growth, but this is a small matter for a very hardy (Zone 5/6) upright boxwood.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	4	Almost as pretty as 'Morris Dwarf,' and a little larger and faster-growing.
'Morris Dwarf'	5	5	This is such a pretty, sturdy little boxwood, tight as a 'Pincushion'.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Outstanding light green color, beautiful form, needs no maintenance.
'Green Pillow'	5	5	I love the foliage; 'Green Pillow' has marvelous little round leaves on a stiff bush. It does not sunburn.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5	Still simply stunning in the right conditions.
Insularis 'Nana'	5	5	Flourishing for us in the shade of a white oak. The leaves are soft green and the habit is loose. It looks delicate but is a tough plant and tolerates salt air.
'Jensen'	4	4	This was very blue when we first planted it. The glaucous foliage became dark green, but we moved the plants and the good color is coming back. Looks very much like English boxwood, but is not as round or compact in habit.
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	A good looking plant but it has a loose habit for us and doesn't hold up compared to 'GHPhillips'.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	3	3	This looks terrific in Kansas City and does not particularly distinguish itself in Virginia. The habit is conical but loose; perhaps shaping would help.
'Green Velvet'	4	4	'Green Velvet' is among our favorite boxwood in Kansas City; in Virginia, it is harder to grow and does not tolerate salt air. We moved ours a year ago to a more protected spot and they have recovered and look very nice.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	3	2	This has survived for us but has not distinguished itself; I was surprised, maybe the heat and humidity do not suit it. We have moved ours to protected location and hope they will recover.

Marty Ross

Hayes, VA (Tidewater area)

EVALUATOR: Marty Ross

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Fabulous dark green-blue leaves and a beautiful spreading habit—not too loose or too tight. 'Vardar Valley' is one of our favorites for its color, distinguished slow growth, and for its history.
'Elegantissima'	4	5	Does not like salt exposure. Ours sparkle like footlights in front of a pair of 'Dee Runks'.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	5	5	I look forward to these becoming big, distinguished shrubs. Even at a young age, they are beautiful.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Harlandii'	4	5	Very slow growing but beautiful boxwood with a slightly weeping habit. I wish this boxwood were more widely available.



Dec. 2004

All photos courtesy of Marty Ross

'English' Boxwood along porch with 'Dee Runk' and 'Elegantissima'

Additional Comments: Our boxwood are growing in sandy soil in Zone 7/8. Our property is on the water and we have found that 'Fastigiata' tolerates salt air remarkably well. 'Morris Dwarf,' 'Morris Midget,' and 'Green Pillow' also tolerate salt air and do not discolor. 'Elegantissima' and 'Green Velvet' both proved too delicate for the exposure.

Our boxwood are mulched with leaf mold and compost. We do not water them in hot weather or dry spells—except newly planted boxwood.

We pinch and shape our boxwood lightly but do not prune them hard. We do not have problems with insects or diseases; the hardest thing on our boxwood has been construction workers.



July 2005



July 2008

See how they grow!

Saunders Brothers, Inc.

Piney River, VA

EVALUATOR: Bennett Saunders

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	5	Beautiful Upright.
'Fastigiata'	4	5	Beautiful Upright.
'Graham Blandy'	2	3	Susceptible to phytophthora.
'John Baldwin'	3	3	Slow grower but beautiful if you are patient. Susceptible to leaf miners.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4.5	Petite dwarf plant.
'Morris Dwarf'	5	4.5	Nice plant, be careful of reversions.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Rich colored ground hugging plants. One of the very top boxwood cultivars.
'Green Pillow'	4.5	5	Fine specimen—late summer growth, often frosted off, otherwise beautiful.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	2	4	Beautiful in good environment.
Insularis 'Nana'	3	3	Lime green-pancake shaped, free of leaf miner.
'Jensen'	4	4	Tougher plant than 'Suffruticosa'. Looks almost identical to 'Suffruticosa'.
'Justin Brouwers'	4	3	Nice plant if you keep out leaf miners.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3	Susceptible to leaf miners. Runts out after 10 years.



Irrigation sprinklers watering tender boxwood foliage on a cold morning to prevent frost damage and browning of leaves. Irrigation will continue until ice has melted from plants.

Saunders Brothers, Inc.

Piney River, VA

EVALUATOR: Bennett Saunders

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
'Green Velvet'	4	3	Susceptible to leaf miners. Runts out after 10 years.
'Green Mound'	4	3	Susceptible to leaf miners. Runts out after 10 years.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	3	Susceptible to leaf miners. Runts out after 10 years.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	3	Beautiful glossy leaves. Susceptible to leaf miner.
'Jim Stauffer'	4	3	More leaf miner resistant than 'Green Beauty'.
'Vardar Valley'	2	4	Nice to look at, difficult to grow. Leaf miner free.
'Elegantissima'	3	3	Classic.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	3	We call this cultivar "Big Leaf" 'Wintergreen' to distinguish it from others. There are several cultivars that carry the name Wintergreen.
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	2	2	Ugly.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	3	Host plant for leaf miners.
Sempervirens [American]	3	3	Classic but sometimes susceptible to root rot.



Three conical 'John Baldwin' on left. Large American, center background. Two 'Graham Blandy' frame door of building. Planting of 'Green Mound' in foreground.

At bottom left, 'Morris Dwarf'; right background, 'Green Beauty' and center foreground, 'Justin Browsers'.



State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm

Boyce, VA

EVALUATOR: Joan Butler

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4		
'Fastigiata'	4		
'Graham Blandy'	1		Needs superb drainage.
'John Baldwin'	5	5	Gorgeous, bluish foliage; small leaf, slow upright growth.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	3		Some bleaching of foliage in full sun.
'Morris Dwarf'	3		
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5		Requires shade, low growth habit, remarkable dark color in shade.
'Green Pillow'	3		Better appearance when grown in shade.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	2		Needs annual thinning, well-drained location.
Insularis 'Nana'	4		Much better color if grown in the shade.
'Jensen'	5		Outstanding bluish color, slow growth.
'Justin Brouwers'	5		Outstanding dark lustrous green, small leaf, tough.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	3		Probable Korean origin; slightly off-color green foliage. Appears quite susceptible to leaf miner! Not particularly attractive.



For many years, Blandy has generously offered programs on growing boxwood.

State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm

Boyce, VA

EVALUATOR: Joan Butler

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
'Green Velvet'	3		Probable Korean origin; slightly off-color green foliage. Appears quite susceptible to leaf miner! Not particularly attractive.
'Green Mound'	3		Probable Korean origin; slightly off-color green foliage. Appears quite susceptible to leaf miner! Not particularly attractive.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	3		Tough and cold-hardy.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5		Shiny foliage; vigorous growth (to 8 feet).
'Jim Stauffer'	5		Not distinguished, but tough, glossy, vigorous.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Fine bluish color, tough, withstands sun, wind, cold; broader than high (to 8 feet).
'Elegantissima'	5		Superb contrast to all green cultivars, some shade preferred.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	3	3	Scraggly, open habit. Not an outstanding choice.
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	2	2	Scraggly, open habit. Not an outstanding choice.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	5		Fine sempervirens cultivar; good hedge or specimen.
Sempervirens [American]	3		Too many cultivars; some not attractive.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
B. semp. 'Rotundifolia'	5		Glossy, vigorous, tough, good specimen choice.
B. semp. 'Ipek'	5		Strong, bluish vertical seeding of Yugoslavian origin (1935).
B. microphylla 'Compacta'	1		Important dwarf which produces attractive sports: 'Helen Whiting,' 'Grace Hendrick Phillips,' 'Henry Hohman'. Very useful for bonsai. Very difficult to root: cuttings need bottom heat. Must be grown in the shade! Slowest-growing of all box: 1/4 inch per year.

A section of the boxwood garden at Blandy Experimental Farm.



Smithsonian Institution

Washington, DC

EVALUATOR: Barbara W. Faust

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	5	Nice rich green foliage
'Fastigiata'	4	3	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	5	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Justin Brouwers'	5	4	Nice round form, easy to grow
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	4	4	



**Barbara W. Faust,
Director, Smithsonian
Gardens, in front of
'The Castle' at the
Smithsonian.**

Photo courtesy of Barbara W. Faust

United States Botanic Garden

Washington, DC

EVALUATOR: Adam Pyle

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	
'Fastigiata'	5	4	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	more winter discoloration
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	3	nice dense habit
'Green Pillow'	4	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3	3	
Insularis 'Nana'	4	3	brownish winter color, dense/full habit
'Jensen'	4	4	nice blue-green color, good dwarf size
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	good winter color
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	very nice winter color
'Green Velvet'	4	5	
'Green Mound'	4	3	looser appearance
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	5	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	
'Jim Stauffer'	5	4	dense habit, nice rounded shape
'Vardar Valley'	5	4	
'Elegantissima'	4	4	good for accent or specimen, not useful in mass plantings
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	3	
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	4	4	
Sempervirens [American]	4	3	

Adam Pyle in the United States Botanic Garden examining 'Jim Stauffer' boxwood.



Photo courtesy from United States Botanic Garden

United States National Arboretum

Washington, DC

EVALUATOR: Lynn R. Batdorf

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Must be grown as a single trunked specimen.
'Fastigiata'	5	5	Nice habit, no pest or disease concerns.
'Graham Blandy'	5	4	Great as a young plant. As it ages, branches fall open.
'John Baldwin'	5	5	Small leaf, blue in spring. Mites are generally a concern.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	The best dwarf box of all.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	Once the plant is 50 to 60 years old, reversions become a serious problem.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	5	Tight foliage. Nice relaxed habit. No pest problems.
'Green Pillow'	4	5	Stays low. Very dependable box.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	5	It grows 12' tall and wide. The most common box of all, yet so misunderstood. If properly thinned, it is easily the best box of all!
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Dark green leaves, compact, handsome. Leaf miner is a problem.



Two rows of 'Pyramidalis' at the National Arboretum

Tatum Saunders takes notes near some very large 'Vardar Valley' boxwood at the National Arboretum.



United States National Arboretum

Washington, DC

EVALUATOR: Lynn R. Batdorf

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	Upright. Dense. Serious leaf miner concerns.
'Green Velvet'	1	1	Serious psyllid and miner in sites in many states
'Green Mound'	2	2	Serious psyllid and leaf miner.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	3	3	Tough plant. Dense. Desirable. Serious psyllid concerns.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3	5	In sites with good soil, it is indeed "a beauty"! In clay soils or exposed sites, the foliage turns brown in winter.
'Jim Stauffer'	4	3	Dense with dark green leaves. Serious psyllid concerns.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	The #1 box of all time. Dark green with blue leaves, in spring, no pest or disease concerns.
'Elegantissima'	3	5	Creamy white variegation, but can be a weak plant.
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	4	Often overlooked, yet is the best Korean box of all!
Sempervirens [American]	5	4	Few realize the mature size of this plant, 30 feet tall. Once this is understood, it is one of the best box! Leaf miner can be a serious concern.



(Left) A row of five 'Graham Blandy' at the National Arboretum.

Photo courtesy of
Lynn R. Batdorf



'Grace Hendrick Phillips' (left), 'Justin Brouwers' (center), and 'Green Pillow' (right).

University of Maryland

College Park, MD

EVALUATOR: Luis Alfonzo

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	4	Top burned, winter damage.
'Morris Dwarf'	5	5	Just a great plant. Great color, excellent plant.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Excellent form and color.
'Green Pillow'	5	5	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	4	Upright compact, some yellowing, mite problems.
Insularis 'Nana'	5	4	Nice plant, some spider problems.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	4	Good form, some leaf miner damage.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Velvet'	5	4	Discoloration, some leaf miner problems.
'Green Mound'	5	4	Leaf miner problems, nice new growth.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Jim Stauffer'	4	4	
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Discoloration in older leaves, but nice new growth.
'Elegantissima'	3	5	Vivid color, very nice texture and variegation; my favorite.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	5	5	Compact, dark green, beautiful plant.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
Buxus 'Newport Blue'	4	3	Dense foliage, wider than tall.

Luis Alfonzo with an 'Elegantissima' at the University of Maryland test garden.



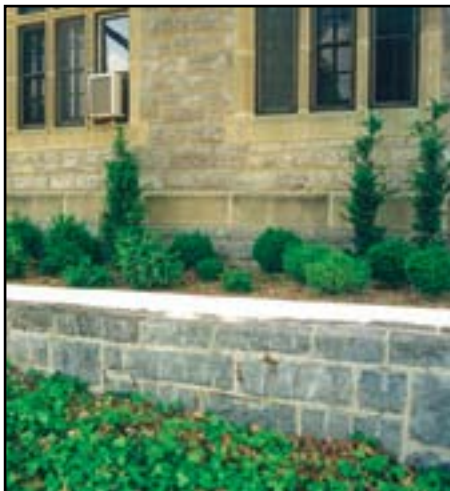
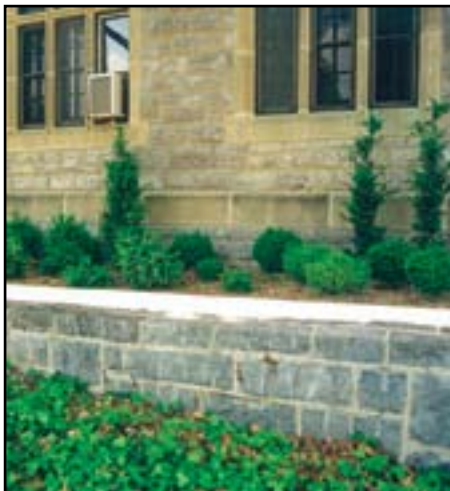
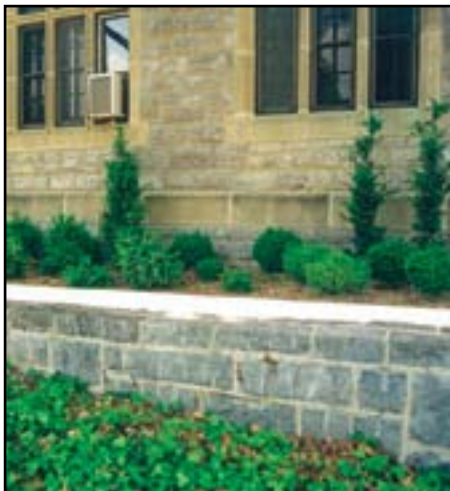
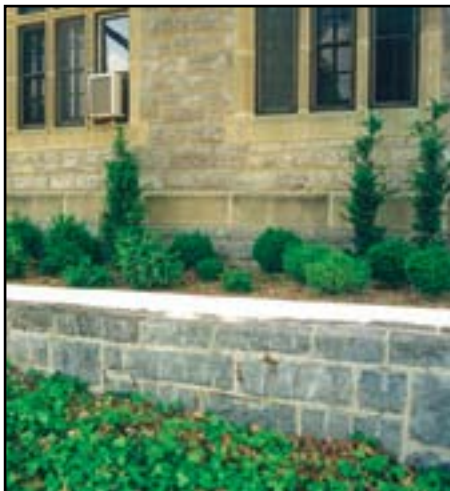
Photo courtesy of Luis Alfonzo

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA

REPORT DATE: 2006

EVALUATOR: Dr. Alex Niemiera

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	Virginia Tech planted two test blocks. This data is from the test site at Sandy Hall.
'Fastigiata'	3	3	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	5	4	
'Green Pillow'	4	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
Insularis 'Nana'	2	3	
'Jensen'	3	3	
'Justin Brouwers'	3	3	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	2	2	
'Vardar Valley'	3	3	
'Elegantissima'	2	2	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	2	2	
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	4	
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Suffruticosa'	5	5	Boxwood test site at Virginia Tech's Sandy Hall.

Boxwood test site at Virginia Tech's Sandy Hall.



Sunny test site at Virginia Tech, Hillcrest Hall

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV

EVALUATOR: Dr. John W. Jett

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	
'Fastigiata'	4	3	Some psyllid and scale
'Graham Blandy'	5	5	
'John Baldwin'	4	3	Some psyllid and scale
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	5	
'Morris Dwarf'	3	4	One died
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	
'Green Pillow'	5	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	5	Some psyllid
Insularis 'Nana'	4	5	Great texture
'Jensen'	5	5	
'Justin Brouwers'	5	4	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	4	Good conical shape
'Green Velvet'	5	3	
'Green Mound'	5	4	
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	3	Some psyllid
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	3	
'Jim Stauffer'	5	3	
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Great color
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Great variegated evergreen
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	5	3	
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Rotundifolia'	5	3	

Additional Comments: These boxwood have been in the ground for two winters and have survived and grown well.

Test garden, West Virginia University.



Photo courtesy of John Jett

Woodland Nursery

Salisbury, MD

EVALUATOR: Charles Fooks

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	A good plant that takes a long time to get that "wow" eye appeal.
'Fastigiata'	5	5	Not many problems, does get leaf miner.
'Graham Blandy'	1	4	Has eye appeal but difficult and costly to grow.
'John Baldwin'	4	5	First-class Upright plant. Needs a lot of pruning to get started right.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	Color is light; keeps a nice, smooth profile without pruning.
'Morris Dwarf'	3	3	Light color is less appealing; grows irregular as it ages.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	5	Color is light; is a first-class dwarf plant.
'Green Pillow'	3	4	Every spring we end up with dead brown foliage across the top of these, even in protected areas.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	5	Our best seller; very sensitive to getting too wet. Otherwise, we have very few problems growing these.
Insularis 'Nana'	3	4	Light color; a nice-looking dwarf plant. Turns very pale in full sun over winter. Greens up as it starts growing.
'Jensen'	4	5	I would rate this about the same as 'Suffruticosa'.



Charles Fooks in one of his variety plantings at Salisbury, Maryland.

GROWER COMMENTS: 1 = worst or awful, 5 = superior or very friendly, doing well
 Impulse Cosmetics: 1 = worst or unsightly, maybe dead, 5 = very pretty, WOW, Simply beautiful

Woodland Nursery

Salisbury, MD

EVALUATOR: Charles Fooks

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Great color; very few growing problems.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	Requires more shearing than I had anticipated to produce nice, cone-shaped plant.
'Green Velvet'	5	4	Comes through winters well; we have not had leaf miner on this.
'Green Mound'	4	4	We like this very much. Needs some shearing to get started off right.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	First-class in every way.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3	4	A beautiful plant but does not come through winters well for us.
'Jim Stauffer'	4	4	Good grower.
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	A fine plant.
'Elegantissima'	4	5	Excellent.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	4	Fastest-growing boxwood we know; requires a lot of pruning.
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	3	3	There are a lot better cold-hardy plants.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	3	Very cold-hardy; susceptible to leaf miner.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens 'Joy'	5	5	Planted in open field in 2004. Have made nice, tight dark green cones with no shearing.
Sempervirens 'Natchez'	4	4	Very similar to 'Vardar Valley' with about the same growing requirements.
Sempervirens 'Ipek'	3	5	This is a very good landscape plant. It requires a lot of time to reach its potential. The jury is still out on this one. It is very susceptible to wet conditions.



Charles Fooks in one of his fields of boxwood.

All plants evaluated are growing in the ground in open field conditions except the dwarfs which are in the ground in a naturally protected area.

The White House

Washington, DC

EVALUATOR: Dale Haney

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Green Pillow'	5	5	East Garden
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3	3	East Garden, others, multiple
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	Multiple locations
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	5	VIP and SW triangle
'Vardar Valley'	4	5	Oval Office Garden



Boxwood at the North Portico of the White House



Paul Saunders (L) with Dale Haney, center, and Wayne Amos inspecting boxwood in the White House Rose Garden

GROWER COMMENTS Grower Friendliness: 1 = worst or awful, 5 = superior or very friendly, doing well
Impulse Cosmetics: 1 = worst or unsightly, maybe dead, 5 = very pretty, WOW, Simply beautiful

The White House

Washington, DC

EVALUATOR: Dale Haney

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	4	5	East Front
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Kingsville Dwarf'	4	no entry	Rose Garden



'Justin Brouwers' at South Patio at White House.



'Justin Brouwers' at the President's private patio.



'Vardar Valley' in front of the Oval Office.

Dr. Robert Wright

Blacksburg, VA

EVALUATOR: Dr. Robert Wright

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	3.5	3	deer damage
'John Baldwin'	3	3	deer damage
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	2.5	3	
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	foliage yellow
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3.5	4	
'Jensen'	4.5	5	
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3.5	
'Green Velvet'	4.5	4	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	4.5	
'Jim Stauffer'	5	3.5	
'Vardar Valley'	3.5	3	deer damage
'Elegantissima'	3.5	3	
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	3.5	2.5	
OTHER CULTIVARS			

"The sites are under some shade, but have strong competition from tree roots that grow out from the woods. Little grass will grow where these plants are because of shade and competition for water and nutrients. The pH is low as well, around 4.5. I lime regularly and fertilize but sometime don't keep up with it. However, I think that many of the low numbers are due to the harsh conditions."

Dr. Wright's test garden is along a corridor that experiences heavy deer movement. Here Dr. Wright noted three cultivars showing significant deer damage during periods of heavy snow cover. He noticed that when the upright cultivars get some size that bucks rub against them to remove the velvet from their antlers.

Dr. Robert Wright in his boxwood testing site, just west of Blacksburg, VA



Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert Wright

Auburn University, North Alabama Horticulture Substation

Cullman, AL

EVALUATOR: Dr. Jeff Sibley

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	No cold injury evident from winters; may be thinner growth density than 'Fastigiata'; may not be as green as 'Fastigiata,' but overall #1 choice of the uprights.
'Fastigiata'	5	5	No cold injury evident from winters; looks great; very good upright, tight form, thick growth, smaller leaves than 'Rotundifolia'.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	3	No cold injury from winters. Good plant but not evaluator's personal favorite.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	4	Minimal cold injury in winters; one of best dwarfs.
Insularis 'Nana'	2	2	I have B. sinica 'Insularis' on tag. Shows cold injury from late spring freezes and looks scorched all over. Perhaps chilling requirement too low for our area, seems to get scorched each spring.
'Jensen'	5	5	No cold injury from winters. Blue-green color; looks beautiful. Ranked #1 of those considered Dwarf.
'Justin Brouwers'	3	3	No cold injury evident from winters, but leaves have some problem; yellow mottling all over.

Dr. Jeff Sibley kneels beside a row of 'Jensen' boxwood



Photo courtesy of Dr. Jeff Sibley

Auburn University, North Alabama Horticulture Substation

Cullman, AL

EVALUATOR: Dr. Jeff Sibley

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	No cold injury. Evaluator's #1 pick. Best of all "classic" cultivars. Beautiful color, form and habit. What we wished all American box looked like!
'Green Velvet'	2	2	Much cold and leaf miner injury on this cultivar. Light green color; a secondary type of scorch all over.
'Green Mound'	2	2	Worst cold injury of all cultivars in study each year. Light green color; poor performer for our location.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3	3	Lots of orangin, possibly from winter injury. Large plant, similar to Wintergreen but lighter green color.
'Jim Stauffer'	3	3	This cultivar shows some cold injury, but has very good growth. Is similar to Wintergreen and 'Green Beauty' but smaller and same light green color as 'Green Beauty'.
'Vardar Valley'	4	5	Shows minimal cold injury but good blue color similar to 'Jensen'. Has some minimal leaf damage similar to 'Justin Brouwers'. Ranked #2 of the Dwarf and Bush types behind 'Jensen'.
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Looks great! NO COLD INJURY, no real reversion to green or yellow; excellent plant.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	5	No cold injury from winters. One of top 3 cultivars of the mid-size/Uprights. Vigorous, open habit growth.
Sempervirens [American]	5	3	No cold injury from winters but nothing special about this cultivar. Typical American box look with an occasional branch dying back in unpredictable times, no dieback some years, a little in others.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
B. sempervirens 'Rotundifolia'	5	5	No cold injury. Beautiful blue-green color, excellent growth. Show Stopper. Open growth habit and round although somewhat upright. Among best cultivars overall.

Dr. Jeff Sibley stands
in a row of 'Fastigiata'
boxwood



Photo courtesy of Dr. Jeff Sibley

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories

Charlotte, NC

EVALUATOR: Greg Paige

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Best of the Uprights, hands down
'Fastigiata'	5	4	Good habit, 'Dee Runk' is nicer
'John Baldwin'	5	5	Good form, great small foliage/texture
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	3	Spotty color; nutrient issues?
'Morris Dwarf'	3	3	Poor shape
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	3	4	Tight, small foliage, good texture
'Green Pillow'	3	3	Color off
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	1	1	All died
Insularis 'Nana'	3	3	Color off
'Jensen'	4	4	Great color and form
'Justin Brouwers'	4	3	Inconsistent growth
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	Best of the Sheridans; great form
'Green Velvet'	4	4	
'Green Mound'	4	4	
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	Great texture
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3	3	All but one died
'Jim Stauffer'	5	5	Very shiny foliage, nice consistent shape
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Favorite of these; nice shape
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Takes our heat well; amazing variegation and good form
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	5	5	Still an old standby for our area; consistently good
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Rotundifolia'	5	4	Good foliage and form



Greg Paige at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, Charlotte, NC.

Photo courtesy of Greg Paige

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham, AL

EVALUATOR: Fred Spicer

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Very light leaf miner, dark green.
'Fastigiata'	4	4	No leaf miner, slower than 'Dee Runk', lighter green.
'Graham Blandy'	3.5	3.5	Moderate winter tip browning/injury, very light leaf miner.
'John Baldwin'	4	4	Very light to light leaf miner; some orange color in winter.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	3.5	4.5	Very light to no leaf miner, light winter tip browning.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	5	Very light to no leaf miner.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	No leaf miner, slight winter tip browning in full sun/wind.
'Green Pillow'	3.5	4	Light leaf miner, regular winter tip browning/dieback.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	2	3	Thin, heavily orange in winter, moderate leaf miner.
Insularis 'Nana'	4	5	Very light to no leaf miner, olive green, shiny.
'Jensen'	2	2	Off-color, moderate leaf miner, not vigorous.
'Justin Brouwers'	3	4	Very, very slow; very light leaf miner, good color.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	3	2	Moderate to heavy leaf miner, open, loose, some bare stems.
'Green Velvet'	3.5	3.5	Light to moderate leaf miner, loose, open
'Green Mound'	3.5	3.5	Moderate to heavy leaf miner, open, loose.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	2.5	1.5	Heavy leaf miner, open, some bare stems, brown-green

**Fred Spicer admires
B. microphylla 'Grace
Hendrick Phillips,'
at Birmingham
Botanical Gardens**



Photo courtesy of Fred Spicer

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham, AL

EVALUATOR: Fred Spicer

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3.5	3.5	Moderate leaf miner, loose (much fuller in full sun)
'Jim Stauffer'	4	2	Moderate leaf miner (better in shade)
'Vardar Valley'	4	5	No leaf miner, dark green, high gloss
'Elegantissima'	3	3	Light leaf miner, open, thin.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	3.5	2.5	Light to moderate leaf miner, loose.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
Buxus "Harlandii"	4	5	No leaf miner, very shiny, emerald green (dense, open at base)
B.h. 'Richard'	4	5	No leaf miner, very shiny, emerald green (dense, open at base)
'Green Mountain'	4	4	
'Spring Meadow form'			Very light leaf miner, dark green
"Faulkner"	5	5	Vigorous, shiny dark green, no leaf miner
"Sunburst"	5	5	Rich color, no leaf miner.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens
executive director Fred Spicer with
Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Nana'
and *B. sempervirens* 'Dee Runk,'
two of the highest-rated cultivars in
Birmingham trials.



Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art

Nashville, TN

EVALUATOR: Sarah Lowe and Patrick Ward

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Outstanding habit.
'Graham Blandy'	2	3	We needed to prune it to maintain its habit.
'John Baldwin'	4	4	Great habit, little and upright.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	Little and cute, no sports.
'Morris Dwarf'	3	3	Has a tight habit, need to prune out sports.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Perfect! We love this one.
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Need to watch for sports.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	4	Looks good!
Insularis 'Nana'	2	2	Looks unhealthy. We lost two during the summer drought of 2007.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Great habit, perfect round form.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Velvet'	4	3	



'Justin Brouwers' on a protected site at Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art.



Cheekwood's Sarah Lowe with Buxus 'Nana Variegata' in test garden.

Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art

Nashville, TN

EVALUATOR: Sarah Lowe and Patrick Ward

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	Nice habit.
'Jim Stauffer'	3	3	Spindly habit.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Great habit, we love this one!
'Elegantissima'	4	4	Nice, but we prefer Buxus 'Nana variegata'
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	3	3	Fast grower, need to prune to maintain its shape and boundaries.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	3	
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Green Gem'	4	4	Drought tolerant, tough.
'Macrophylla'	3	3	Open, airy habit.
'Nana Variegata'	5	5	Slow growing, looks excellent.
'Newport Blue'	3	3	Bluish tint to foliage, looks OK.
microphylla 'Compacta'	4	4	Unusual shape.
'B. semp. 'Aureo-Pendula'	4	5	Different variegation, more yellow than green, striking.



'Vardar Valley' at Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art.

Dixon Gallery and Gardens

Memphis, TN

EVALUATOR: Dale Skaggs and Jesse Howley

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	Best Upright form
'Fastigiata'	2	2	Not a strong grower; some yellowing; similar to sempervirens
'Graham Blandy'	3	2	Multiple leaders; falls apart
'John Baldwin'	4	4	
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Tolerates sun well; does get reversions
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	
'Green Pillow'	4	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	1	2	Not well suited to our area
Insularis 'Nana'	4	4	Similar to 'Grace Hendrick Phillips'; spreading, low habit
'Justin Brouwers'	5	4	Best low-growing box for us; some leaf miners
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	4	Substitute for sempervirens; tough
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	Good grower
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	2	Needs shearing
'Vardar Valley'	5	4	Nice blue color
'Elegantissima'	4	5	Grows well but slow
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	3	Requires constant shearing
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	3	Better than sempervirens
Sempervirens [American]	2	3	Yellows/bronzes in winter, especially in sun
OTHER CULTIVARS			
Microphylla 'compacta' Kingsville	3	4	Extremely slow; gets reversions easily



Photo courtesy of Dale Skaggs

Dale Skaggs with B. sempervirens



Photo courtesy of Dale Skaggs

Dale Skaggs with B. sempervirens

GROWER COMMENTS Grower Friendliness: 1 = worst or awful, 5 = superior or very friendly, doing well
Impulse Cosmetics: 1 = worst or unsightly, maybe dead, 5 = very pretty, WOW, Simply beautiful

Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville, AL

EVALUATOR: Harvey Cotten

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	5	Excellent form
'Fastigiata'	4	3	Has not filled in well
'John Baldwin'	4	5	Excellent form - most commented cultivar from general garden visitor
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	Medium green color
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	5	Good color, excellent shape with no pruning
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Medium green color - good shape without pruning
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	4	
Insularis 'Nana'	4	4	Beginning to open with age - will need shaping
'Jensen'	4	4	Deep green color
'Justin Brouwers'	4	5	Great color - my favorite of dwarfs
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3	
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	Looser habit - good color
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	4	4	Had some leaf miner problems this year

Harvey Cotten in
Huntsville Botanical
Garden



Photo courtesy of Harvey Cotten

North Carolina Mountain Crops Research Station

Fletcher, NC (Asheville area)

EVALUATOR: Joe Conner

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	Plant looks great.
'Fastigiata'	4	3	Some dead branches.
'Graham Blandy'	4	3.5	Dead branches.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	2	Dead.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	Dead branches.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	Dead branches.
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Dead.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	4	Dead branches.
Insularis 'Nana'	4	3	Looks good, some winter burn.
'Jensen'	4	3	Looks good.
'Justin Brouwers'	4	3	Plant looks great!
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	3	Looks good (some winter burn).
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	Looks good.
'Elegantissima'	4	4	Reversion a problem.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	4	3	Looks good.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	4	3	Looks great.
Sempervirens [American]	4	3.5	Dead branches.

Joe Conner
at Mountain
Horticultural Crops
Research and
Extension Center



NC State University, JC Raulston Arboretum

Raleigh, NC

EVALUATOR: Mark Weatherton

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Still tight, narrowest Upright we have.
'Fastigiata'	4	2	Somewhat open, insect damage.
'Graham Blandy'	5	4	Nice Upright.
'John Baldwin'	5	5	Our favorite Upright, nice color and texture.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	Getting crowded out.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	Throwing some reversions, not as uniform as the other dwarfs.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Consistently our best dwarf.
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Nice large foliage for a dwarf form, some miners.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	4	Some miners.
Insularis 'Nana'	3	4	Insect problems, but one of the smallest leafed varieties.
'Justin Brouwers'	4	5	Good color in full sun, vigorous and dense for a dwarf.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	Nice Upright even in full sun.
'Green Velvet'	4	5	Great foliage effect.
'Green Mound'	4	4	Nice form.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	3	2	Open growth, insect problems, is not performing well for us.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	3	Does not stand out in the Trials beds.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	One of the best for deep blue-green foliage color effect.
'Elegantissima'	3	4	Good, stable variegation.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	4	3	Somewhat open and loose.
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	3	4	Nice, soft mound, heavy miner infestation.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	5	4	Beautiful, but slightly open.
'American' [common]	5	4	Beautiful specimens in dry shade.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
"Agram"	4	4	Difficult to evaluate, very crowded spot, needs to be moved.
'Angustifolia'	4	3	Crowded, some disease but good texture.
'Argenteovariegata'	3	5	Very similar to 'Elegantissima,' maybe more vigorous with white variegation.
'Aristocrat'	3	3	Doesn't stand out.
B. 'bodiniieri'	5	5	Great textural plant, similar to B. "Harlandii".

NC State University, JC Raulston Arboretum

Raleigh, NC

EVALUATOR: Mark Weathington

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
B. "Harlandii"	5	5	Beautiful foliage and texture, one of our favorites.
B. 'himalayensis'	5	5	Tight, bluish, very nice.
B. 'sinica'	3	3	Very attractive large leaves, but open and thin habit.
B. 'wallichiana'	5	5	Beautiful, glossy foliage.
'Belleville'	3	3	Pale foliage color in sun.
'Berlin'	4	3	Another that does not stand out.
'Bullata'	4	5	Deep, glossy green foliage, nice oval form.
'Butterwort'	5	4	Tight form, narrow foliage for nice texture.
'Curly Locks'	4	5	One of our best dwarfs, low and spreading.
'Decussata'	4	4	Interesting texture, has held up well despite crowding.
'Glauc'	3	5	Loose and open but great cool blue foliage.
'Handworthiensis'	3	3	Very crowded.
'Helen Whiting'	2	3	Heavy insect damage-this may be an unfair rating due to crowding.
'Henry Hohman'	4	5	Tiny leaves and picturesque habit, very un-Buxus like.
'Henry Shaw'	4	3	Doesn't stand out.
'Hermann von Schrenk'	4	4	Dense despite competition.
'Jim Stauffer'	3	4	Not spreading, but nice rounded form.
'Kingsville' (Dwarf)	4	4	Light yellow-green in full sun.
'Latifolia Macrophylla'	3	4	Dark green even in full sun but miner problems.



JC Raulston Arboretum



Mark Weathington

Photos courtesy of Mark Weathington

NC State, JC Raulston Arboretum

Raleigh, NC

EVALUATOR: Mark Weathington

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
'Latifolia Maculata'	4	5	Mature plants have lost most of their gold coloring. Cuttings show the spring color better, may need regular trimming to keep showy.
'Marginata'	4	4	Nice variegation.
'Memorial'	5	5	Dense small rounded form, very good bush form.
'Miss Jones'	4	4	Nice form, pale bluish foliage cast.
'Myosotidifolia'	4	5	Graceful, loose habit.
'Myrtifolia'	3	3	Miners.
'Northern Find'	5	4	Fairly dense, good color.
'Northland'	3	4	Bare at base, nice color.
'Pendula'	3	3	Not terribly pendulous, 'Unraveled' is much better.
'Pincushion'	4	3	Open habit.
'Ponteyi'	4	3	Very crowded, poor color.
'Pullman'	3	2	Open and sparse, but nice bluish foliage color.
'Pyramidalis'	4	4	Quick grower, holding its shape well despite one side being heavily shaded.
'Rotundifolia'	4	4	Good deep color, different texture.
'Salicifolia'	2	4	We've found it to be tougher to root than most.
'Salicifolia Elata'	4	5	Unusual habit, more pendulous and open than others, but very attractive.
'Ste. Genvieve'	3	3	Doesn't stand out.
'Sunburst'	4	5	Slow, but excellent variegation, a standout.
'Sunnyside'	5	5	Glossy foliage, no insects.
'Tall Boy'	3	3	Like 'Miss Jones,' but more open.
'Tide Hill'	3	4	Good dwarf, some insect damage.
'Unraveled'	5	5	Open, spreading habit, could be staked as a weeper, beautiful.
'Welleri'	5	5	Dense, full Upright, wider than 'Dee Runk' and other Uprights.
'Woodland'	5	3	Ok, but does not stand out at all from the pack.
(unnamed selection) 021002	5	5	Very tight and dense ball, looks very promising.
(unnamed selection) 021012	5	5	Very tight and dense ball, looks very promising.
(unnamed selection) 021013	5	5	Dense, slow Upright grower.
(unnamed selection) 021014	5	5	Dense, slow Upright grower.

NC State University, Davis Farm Site

Lenoir, NC

EVALUATOR: Craig R. Adkins

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Cool name and striking growth and form; sunscald symptoms on south-side of plants, may need to protect from drying winds.
'Fastigiata'	5	4	Upright growth not as tight as 'Dee Runk,' and more open. During 2009, growth rate (height/ spread) outperformed 'Dee Runk'.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	2	Winter damage and dieback.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3	Winter damage and dieback.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	Winter damage and dieback. Best performer of the dwarf cultivars planted. [Some of the dwarf cultivars have performed at this test site. Appear to be more suitable for container production than field production]
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Justin Brouwers'	5	4	Didn't miss a beat in test plot, nice mounding substitute for English boxwood.



Photo courtesy of Craig Adkins

Craig Adkins at the Davis Farm Site

NC State University, Davis Farm Site

Raleigh, NC

EVALUATOR: Craig R. Adkins

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	Striking plant, great shape with little attention, best of this category.
'Green Velvet'	5	5	Shaggy-looking mound with good color.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	5	Very slow growing in test plot.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	5	Blossomed into a keeper during 2009 growing season with above-normal rainfall.
'Jim Stauffer'	5	5	Nice new growth and appearance; best of the "bush" cultivars.
'Elegantissima'	5	5	Splashing plant with variegated leaves. Good color and growth. Should be the poster Buxus to sell more boxwood to avid gardeners.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	5	Didn't skip a beat in the test plot. Very vigorous, but tends to have a lot of leggy shoots which requires more pruning when compared to other boxwood.
'American' [common semperv]	5	5	The standard among Buxus cultivars. Tried and true performer.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Rotundifolia'	5	5	Magnificent plant with dark green, robust growth habit.
Insularis 'Tide Hill'	4	4	Average spreader.
'Winter Gem'	5	5	Dark winter color and good shape.
'Golden Dream'	5	4	Color fades in heat of summer; yellow variegated leaves will make this a favorite among "golden plant" collectors. Fall coloration could be interpreted as a nutrient deficiency.
'Tall Boy'	5	5	Open, loose growth habit; winter color OK but nothing spectacular.
'Faulkner'	5	5	Deep green color.
'Harlandii'	5	5	Love the leaf shape for a boxwood. Color is light green/others have much better color.

Opryland Hotel

Nashville, TN

EVALUATOR: Hollis Malone

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5	5	Excellent color and shape; guests want to add to their gardens; they think it is a holly.
'Fastigiata'	4	3.5	More loose than 'Dee Runk'; foliage color bronze in winter.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	3.5	Good tight form; some winter foliage damage.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Good tight form, color good.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4	Tight growth, good color.
'Green Pillow'	3	3	Nice shape and good color in shade.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3.5	3.5	Good plant, medium green in shade.
Insularis 'Nana'	3	3	Color varies from good to chlorotic; some dieback.
'Jensen'	4.5	4.5	Nice blue-green color; good tight form, neat habit. Guests comment on this one.
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	Very dark green color, compact.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	Very good dense shape and color.
'Green Velvet'	4	3.5	Nice green, not dark and some yellow edge to new growth.
'Green Mound'	4	4	Tight form, good green color; some mite damage.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	4	Color good and form in shade.
'Jim Stauffer'	3.5	3.5	Nice plant, color and shape good.
'Vardar Valley'	4.5	4.5	One of the best in the collection; nice blue-green color; nice spreading shape.
'Elegantissima'	4	4	Good variegation; nice color and shape, great for contrast. Guests love and can't believe it is a boxwood; given more information.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	3	3	Color not good; dieback; unthrifty look. Site could be a problem.

Hollis Malone in test plantings at Opryland in Nashville



Shadow Nursery

Winchester, TN

EVALUATOR: Don Shadow

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	5		Was cut heavy for propagation
'Fastigiata'	5		Was cut heavy for propagation
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	2		
'Morris Dwarf'	2		
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	1		
'Green Pillow'	3		
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4		
'Jensen'	4		
'Justin Brouwers'	4		
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5		
'Green Velvet'	5		Off color but greened with warm temperatures and fertility
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5		
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4		Cut heavy for propagation
'Jim Stauffer'	4		Cut heavy for propagation
'Vardar Valley'	3		
'Elegantissima'	4		
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	4		
Sempervirens [American]	4		
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Kingsville'	1		
'Newport Blue'	3		
'Sunburst'	5		
'Franklin'	4		
Microphylla 'National'	4		
Microphylla 'Big Leaf'	4		



Don Shadow beside 'Vardar Valley' in Winchester, TN.

University of Tennessee Gardens

Knoxville, TN

EVALUATOR: Dr. William Klingeman

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	

*I deducted a point for grower friendliness if the unpruned top was flat or open (as a maintenance headache).

UPRIGHT CULTIVARS

'Dee Runk'	4	3
'Fastigiata'	4	4
'Graham Blandy'	5	5
'John Baldwin'	5	5

DWARF CULTIVARS

'Morris Midget'	5	5
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4	4
'Green Pillow'	5	4

DWARF TO BUSH

'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5
Insularis 'Nana'	5	3
'Jensen'	5	4
'Justin Brouwers'	4	5

SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE

'Green Mountain'	2	1	Very poor appearance (leggy/open) in shade; better (3/3) in sun
'Green Velvet'	3	2	
'Green Mound'	4	3	
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	

BUSH CULTIVARS

'Green Beauty'	3	2
'Jim Stauffer'	4	4
'Vardar Valley'	4	3
'Elegantissima'	5	4

LARGE CULTIVARS

'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	4	3
Sempervirens [American]	5	4



Photos courtesy of Dr. William Klingeman

Test garden at University of Tennessee

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Clermont, KY

EVALUATOR: Eric Garris

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	3	Nice Upright, fast grower, a little leggy in spots
'Fastigiata'	4	4	Good color even through winter
'Graham Blandy'	3	3	A bit scraggly in habit, some psyllid damage
'John Baldwin'	5	4	Nice bluish color, great tight growth, some mite damage
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	5	Slow grower, excellent foliage, great for small hedge
'Morris Dwarf'	5	5	Great deep green color
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	4	Beautiful, no winter or insect injury
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Tough plant even in full sun, minor winter burn
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	2	2	Massive dieback, much leaf miner damage
Insularis 'Nana'	4	3	Nice light feathery habit, twig dieback detracts from overall appearance
'Jensen'	5	5	Slight mite damage, great form and color
'Justin Brouwers'	4	4	Minor mite damage



'Green Velvet' at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Clermont, KY

EVALUATOR: Eric Garriss

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	Nice Upright habit with very full shape, good color all year.
'Green Velvet'	3	3	Major leaf miner damage, a little golden in color
'Green Mound'	4	3	Winter burn from late season growth
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	Fast growing, good looking plant
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	4	3	Good growth, a little yellow, minor mite damage
'Jim Stauffer'	5	3	Open plant habit, medium green color.
'Vardar Valley'	5	5	Exceptional color all year, easy grower
'Elegantissima'	4	5	Great plant, eye-catching color, needs protection
LARGE CULTIVARS			
Sempervirens [American]	4	5	Great plant, perfect color and form.



Plants being delivered to Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

"Boxwood Ridge"

Mount Vernon, IN

EVALUATOR: Maury Murray

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4.5	Attractive pyramidal plant.
'Fastigiata'	5	4.5	Attractive pyramidal plant.
'Graham Blandy'	1	2	Young plants attractive but older plants become ugly because of drooping branches.
'John Baldwin'	3	4	Nice blue color. Requires pruning to maintain pleasing shape.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	5	4.5	Nice plant with attractive shape and dense foliage.
'Morris Dwarf'	3	4	Uneven growth requires pruning. Less desirable than 'Morris Midget'.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	4.5	Nice low-growing plant.
'Green Pillow'	5	4.5	Attractive low-growing plant with dense foliage.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3	5	Attractive, but fussy as to sun exposure and drainage.
Insularis 'Nana'	5	5	Nice natural shape and good color. One of the best.
'Jensen'	5	4.5	Nice plant with blue color.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Very attractive dense foliage. One of the best.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	Very nice Upright plant. Best of the Sheridan hybrids.
'Green Velvet'	5	4	Somewhat open growth.
'Green Mound'	5	4	Somewhat open growth.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	5	Very nice dense foliage. One of the best.



Maury Murray at his Trial test gardens near Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

“Boxwood Ridge”

Mount Vernon, IN

EVALUATOR: Maury Murray

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
‘Green Beauty’	5	4.5	Fairly dense foliage with good color.
‘Jim Stauffer’	5	4	Slightly open growth.
‘Vardar Valley’	5	4.5	Nice shape and color, but growth somewhat open.
‘Elegantissima’	5	5	Best variegated boxwood.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
‘Wintergreen’ (Big leaf)	5	4.5	Attractive plant but slightly open growth.
‘Wintergreen’ (Little leaf)	4	3.5	Open growth. Requires pruning to produce pleasing appearance.
‘Elizabeth H. Inglis’	5	5	Very nice plant with dense foliage with blue color.
Sempervirens [American]	5	4.5	Equal to or better than most named cultivars.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
‘Abilene’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Agram’	5	4	Less desirable shape.
‘Angustifolia’	5	5	Very nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Appalachian Pyramid’	5	4	Upright plant.
‘Apple Green’	5	3.5	Open growth.
‘Arborescens’	5	4.5	Attractive large plant.
‘Argentea’	4	4	Nice variegated plant but reversions often occur.
‘Aristocrat’	5	4	Fast growing Upright with somewhat ragged appearance.
‘Asheville’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.



Maury Murray
inspects liner
survival in his
gardens in late
winter.

Maury Murray
kneeling in his
boxwood garden
with ‘Vardar Valley’



“Boxwood Ridge”

Mount Vernon, IN

EVALUATOR: Maury Murray

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
Aurea ‘Pendula’	4	3	Nice variegation, but spindly natural habit.
‘Aureo-variegata’	5	5	Very nice variegated plant.
‘Belleville’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Berlin’	5	4	Somewhat coarse.
Blauer Heinz	5	5	Very nice plant with blue color.
‘Bullata’	5	5	Very nice large leaf plant.
‘Butterworth	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
Buxus bodinieri (notch leaf)	5	5	Dense foliage and very good color. Tolerates full sun. One of the best.
Buxus bodinieri (round leaf)	4	4	Does better in the shade.
Buxus sinica	5	3 to 4.5	Different clones have different desirability.
‘Cliffside’	5	4	Nice pyramidal plant.
‘Compacta’	4	5	Very attractive dwarf plant. Does best in shade.
‘Curly Locks’	3	2.5	Undesirable yellow-green color. Older plants become rangy.
‘Decussata’	5	3	Unattractive plant with stiff upright branches.
‘Denmark’	5	4	Large leaves but growth somewhat open.
‘Edgar Anderson’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Faulkner’	5	4	Attractive plant but growth slightly open.
‘Flora Place’	5	4.5	Nice plant with large leaves.



Maury Murray ventilating his cold frame in springtime.

“Boxwood Ridge”

Mount Vernon, IN

EVALUATOR: Maury Murray

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
Fortunei ‘Rotundifolia’	5	3	Coarse, open growth.
‘Glauca’	5	5	Very nice plant with blue color and pleasing pyramidal shape.
‘Green Gem’	5	3.5	Poor winter color.
‘Green Ice’	5	4.5	Attractive plant.
‘Handsworthensis’	5	3	Unattractive plant with stiff upright branches.
‘Handsworthensis Candelabra’	5	3	Unattractive, but has interesting “candelabra” growth.
‘Hardwickensis’	4	4.5	Attractive pyramidal plant with large dark leaves.
‘Helen Whiting’	5	3.5	Open growth and undesirable yellow-green color.
‘Henry Hohman’	2	2	Unattractive, scraggly plant with poor color.
‘Henry Shaw’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
Herb’s Dark Green	5	4.5	Very nice habit, more dense than Wintergreen, but winter color not as good.
‘Herb’s Special’	3	2	Very open growth. Would require much pruning to make attractive.
‘Hermann von Schrenk’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Holland’	5	4.5	Attractive plant with dense foliage.
‘Ipek’	5	4.5	Nice plant.
‘Japanese Globe’	5	3	Coarse, open growth.
‘Joe Gable’	5	4.5	Nice plant with narrow leaves.
‘Jolly Green Giant’	5	4	Tall growing Japanese boxwood.
‘Joy’	5	5	Very nice natural habit. One of the best.
‘Kingsville’	1	1	Hideous plant. Not worth growing. Ugliest plant in the collection.
‘Krossi-Livonia’	5	3	Rather open growth.
‘Latifolia’	5	5	Very attractive plant with dense foliage.
‘Latifolia Maculata’	5	5	Striking golden foliage in spring. One of the best.
‘Latifolia Nova’	5	3	Unattractive plant with stiff upright branches.
‘Liberty’ (B. sempervirens)	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Liberty’ (Japanese)	5	3.5	Open growth.
‘Longifolia’	5	4.5	Attractive plant with large, long leaves.
‘Marginata’	5	5	Very attractive variegated plant.
‘Mary Gamble’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Meyers’	5	4.5	Nice upright plant with dense foliage.
‘Miss Jones’	5	4	Rather open growth.
‘Morrison Garden’ (columnar)	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Myosotidifolia’	5	4	Interesting because of very narrow leaves.
‘Myrtifolia’	4	4	Natural shape is less desirable.
‘Natchez’	5	4.5	Nice low-growing plant with blue color but growth somewhat open.

"Boxwood Ridge"

Mount Vernon, IN

EVALUATOR: Maury Murray

CULTIVAR

GROWER FRIENDLINESS

IMPULSE COSMETICS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Peculiar or striking characteristics

5 easy, 1 difficult

5 Wow, 1 ugly



Maury Murray in his Trials garden.

'National'	5	4.5	Slightly open, but one of the best Japanese boxwood cultivars.
'Nela Park'	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
'Newport Blue'	5	3.5	Nice blue color but growth somewhat open.
'Nish'	5	4.5	Attractive plant with large leaves.
'Northland'	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
'Northern Find'	5	4	Rather unattractive open habit.
'Pendula'	5	5	Graceful drooping branches. One of the best.
'Pier Cove'	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
'Pincushion'	5	5	One of the best Korean boxwood cultivars. Nice dense foliage.
'Ponteyi'	5	4	Rather unattractive open habit.
'Pride of Rochester'	5	4.5	Fast growing attractive plant.
'Prostrata'	5	4	Eye-catching with nearly horizontal branches.
'Pullman'	5	5	Nice natural shape with good color. One of the best.
'Pyramidalis'	5	4.5	Attractive pyramidal plant.
'Quiet End'	3	3	Open growth. Requires pruning to obtain pleasing shape.

“Boxwood Ridge”

Mount Vernon, IN

EVALUATOR: Maury Murray

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
‘Richard’	5	5	Large leaf plant with excellent color. One of the very best.
‘Rotundifolia’ (B. sempervirens)	5	4	Large leaves but growth somewhat open.
‘Rotundifolia’ (Japanese)	5	4	Slightly open growth.
‘Russ’	5	4	Nice dense foliage but bronzes in winter.
‘Salicifolia’	4	3.5	Uneven growth requires pruning.
‘Salicifolia’ Elata	5	4.5	Nice tall plant with narrow leaves.
‘Schmidt’	5	5	Very nice Upright plant with dense foliage.
‘Scupi’	5	4.5	Nice pyramidal plant.
‘Shandy Hall’	5	5	Nice natural shape w/ dense foliage. One of the best.
‘Sport’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Ste. Genevieve’	5	4.5	Attractive plant with dense foliage.
‘Sunlight’	4	2.5	Open growth with unattractive yellow-green color.
‘Sunnyside’	5	3.5	Open growth.
‘Tall Boy’	5	4.5	Nice upright plant.
‘Tide Hill’	5	5	Nice natural shape and good color. One of the best.
‘Treska Gorge’	5	2.5	Unattractive plant with very open growth.
‘Undulifolia’	5	4.5	Nice plant with good color.
‘Varifolia’	5	3.5	Variegation is inconspicuous.
‘Wanford Page’	5	5	Brilliant golden spring foliage.
‘Welleri’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘West Ridgeway’	4	5	Very attractive small leaf plant.
‘Winter Beauty’	5	4	Open growth but good winter color.
‘Winter Gem’	5	3.5	Open growth.
‘Woodland’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.
‘Yorktown’	5	3	Rather unattractive plant with open growth.
‘Zehrung’	5	4.5	Nice plant with dense foliage.



Propagation system by Maury Murray located in a dark cellar. Notice the artificial light and innovative watering system, and the multitude of cultivars.

Chicago Botanic Garden

Glencoe, IL

EVALUATOR: Tim Johnson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'		3	Over 7' tall; has south exposure to sun, though not full sun
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'		5	Nice, large boxwood, some Volutella problems
'Green Velvet'		Same as 'Glencoe'	Same as 'Glencoe'; typically stays in a tight mound; some old ones in shade have developed with no Volutella problems.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Some are great, those heavily sheared, planted tight with less air circulation (heavy shade a factor too at times) are being impacted heavily by Volutella blight to point of requiring removal; individual plants with more sun fare much better
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Elegantissima'		1	Has south exposure to sun though not full sun; is struggling.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)		5	Good performer, more resistant to Volutella, color tends to lighten in winter; plants will get large.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Wilson'		4	Seems more resistant to Volutella
'Sheridan Little Leaf'		5	Great color, is in shade, not seeing Volutella blight
'Winter Gem'		5	In full sun and sheared, 'Glencoe' boxwood in vicinity and sheared are being replaced because of Volutella blight
'Green Gem'		5	In light shade
sempervirens 'Variegata'		3	Very small plant in protected site, so may not be representative of performance in Chicago.
'Green Ice' or 'Krazgreen'		2	Kept sheared as a 6" tall hedge in protected site so, again, it may not be representative of performance in Chicago.



'Green Mountain' at Chicago Botanic Garden.

Photo courtesy of Chicago Botanic Garden

Cox Arboretum

Dayton, OH

EVALUATOR: Richmond Pearson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	3.5	5	In ground for approximately 3 years. Westernmost plants showing some wind/sun burn. Using 2 winter applications of anti-transpirant.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Dwarf'	4	3.5	Tough little plants, very slow-growing, very tolerant of abuse. Grow back readily from foot traffic and equipment abuse.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	3.5	Survived transplant well; heavy snowloads winter 2010 may severely damage.
'Green Velvet'	5	5	Long-term planting was transplanted to avoid construction. Rapid recovery/limited transplant shock; good green color even in winter; doing well planted among magnolias.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	Site conditions are extremely poor yet these plants are doing fairly well in poorly-drained, heavy clay, open exposure.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Green Gem'	5	5	Long-term planting lining significant path. Very uniform growth even under overhanging trees. Uniform rate and habit requiring infrequent remedial pruning.
Buxus semp. 'Wilson'		3.5	300 plants installed B&B fall/winter 2009 as part of a "roadside planting" in hedge between young shade trees. Field grown and looked great at digging.
'Northern Charm Boxwood'			



Planting of boxwood at Cox Arboretum



Unloading test plants at the Cox Arboretum

Dawes Arboretum

Newark, OH

EVALUATOR: Richard Larson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4.5	Tight habit, excellent dark green, glossy foliage.
'Fastigiata'	4	4.5	Tight upright habit, glossy dark green leaves, coarser texture than 'Dee Runk'
'Graham Blandy'	2.5	4	Tender cultivar, tightest habit of the group, dark green, glossy foliage.
'John Baldwin'	4	4.5	Strong upright grower, multiple shoots, ascending leaves, dark green.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	3	4.5	Tight, bun-shaped dwarf, slight bronzing in winter.
'Morris Dwarf'	3	2	Severe browning throughout, possible drought injury.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	3	5	Dwarf form, horizontal to prostrate habit, darker green inside, light green young shoots.
'Green Pillow'	3	4.5	Beautiful habit, slight winter browning on top, glossy medium green.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	4	3.5	Rounded to low-growing, medium to dark green glossy leaves.
Insularis 'Nana'	5	4	Psyllid infestation moderate, medium to dark green leaves.
'Jensen'	2	4	Extremely compact, large leaves, one of the darker green forms, tender.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	Tight, oval to rounded-Best of Type! Very fine textured, glossy dark green leaves.

Richard Larson with 'Dee Runk' in the Trials garden at Dawes Arboretum



Dawes Arboretum

Newark, OH

EVALUATOR: Richard Larson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	4	Broad, rounded to broadly conical, medium to dark green glossy foliage.
'Green Velvet'	5	4	Rounded large shrub, glossy medium green.
'Green Mound'	5	4	Vigorous large scale plant forming a conical habit, medium green glossy leaves.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	4	Flat green foliage, rounded shrub, psyllid damage light.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	4	Rounded, vigorous, flat green leaves, some bronzing in winter.
'Jim Stauffer'	5	4	Wide spreading shrub, coarse texture, medium glossy green, clean from psyllid.
'Vardar Valley'	4	4.5	Excellent dark green to bluish green leaves, compact, rounded when young, slow growth.
'Elegantissima'	1.5	4	Leggy at base, creamy white margins and round green centers, tender.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	5	3	Eventually large mounded shrub, flat green to bronze green leaves, heavy fruiter.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	5	5	Broadly conical, medium to large shrub, very dense, glossy dark green foliage, light psyllid.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Abilene'	5	4.5	Minimal psyllid infestation, great glossy dark green foliage, broad rounded habit.
'Anderson'	4	4	Beautiful spreading shrub, great dark green glossy foliage, clean.
'Aristocrat'	3.5	3	Newly planted, late shoot flushes, medium green.
'Asheville'	5	5	Large, broadly conical shrub, light psyllid infestation, medium to dark green glossy leaves. Best of its type!
'Berlin'	3.5	3	Newly planted, strong Upright grower, large leaves, glossy medium green.
'Bob Sweet n Low'	5	5	Best of its type! Low-spreading dwarf, glossy medium green leaves, clear!
'Blauer Heinz'	3	3	Newly planted, bluish green foliage.
'Curly Locks'	3.5	4	Unique for its light to yellow-green leaves, habit irregular but spreading, wider than tall.
'Faulkner'	3	3.5	Low spreading habit, medium green glossy leaves, red-bronze in winter.
'Fernwood'	2.5	3.5	Boldest, largest leaves of any in our collection, dark glossy green, loose habit, upright to round.
'Green Gem'	5	3.5	Foliage flat green, large mounded shrub.
'Green Ice'	3	2	Heavy psyllid damage, medium green to bronze green, newly planted.
'Green Prince'	3.5	3	Spreading shrub, medium height, glossy medium green leaves. Some winter dieback 2007.

Dawes Arboretum

Newark, OH

EVALUATOR: Richard Larson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
'Handworthiensis'	4	3	Loose, open ascending habit, multiple leaders, large leaves, dark glossy green.
'Herb's Special'	5	3	Large shrub, rounded habit to broad conical, flat green to bronze green in winter.
Herb's Dark Green	5	3	Upright vigorous grower, flat green to bronze green in winter, psyllid medium to heavy.
'Hildebrandt's Intermediate'	3	2.5	Loose open shrub, light green leaves.
'Joe Gable'	4	4	Upright habit, glossy dark green to blue-green foliage, psyllid light.
'Liberty'	4	3	Strongly ascending, medium to light green leaves, loose and open, newly planted.
'Morrison Garden'	5	5	Excellent dark green, glossy leaves, grows taller than wide, hardy, clean.
'Myosotidifolia'	4	5	Upright, tight habit, very dark green glossy leaves, clean.
'Newport Blue'	5	3.5	Loose Upright shrub, dark green leaves.
'Northern Find'	5	3.5	Young plant, rounded habit open in the center, clean.
'Ohio'	4	4	Conical to rounded habit, very dark green foliage, large leaves, clean.
'Pier Cove'	5	5	Psyllid light, exceptionally clean, dark green, Upright shrub, similar to 'Pullman'
'Pioneer'	5	3.5	Rounded, broadly conical, medium green glossy leaves.
'Pullman'	5	5	Psyllid damage light, Upright to broad rounded shrub, very hardy common box, Best of its Type! Performs well in open sites, too.
'Rochester'	5	4.5	Beautiful boxwood, broadly conical, medium green glossy leaves, clean.
'Route 50'	4	4	Upright conical habit, exceptionally dark green glossy leaves.
'Russ'	5	3	Minimal psyllid damage, vigorous broadly conical shrub, flat medium green leaves.
'Schmidt'	5	4	Vigorous ascending branches, medium green, glossy foliage.
'Shandy Hall'	4	3	Long, tapered (acuminate) foliage, dark glossy green, broadly conical shape.
'Sunnyside'	5	4	Spreading shrub, medium green glossy leaves.
'Tall Boy'	4	3.5	Medium green to light green, ascending but open to date.
'Tide Hill'	3	3.5	Flat growing to mounded, medium green, some winter injury.
'Welleri'	4.5	4	Rounded, medium-sized shrub, very dark glossy green foliage, linear leaves, tough, drought resistant.
'Winter Beauty'	4	3.5	Psyllid damage moderate. Newly planted, foliage blue-green, habit is bun-shaped.
'Winter Gem'	4	4	Light psyllid damage, small leaves, medium glossy green.
'Zehrunge'	5	4	Upright to rounded shrub, no late shoot flushes, clean, glossy medium green foliage.

Sheila Hoffmeister

St. Louis, MO

EVALUATOR: Sheila Hoffmeister

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
‘Dee Runk’	5	5	
‘Fastigiata’	5	5	
‘John Baldwin’	5	5	No problems whatsoever
DWARF TO BUSH			
‘Justin Brouwers’	4	4	Mites
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
‘Green Velvet’	5	5	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
‘Vardar Valley’	5	5	So-o-o reliable
OTHER CULTIVARS			
‘Compacta’	5	5	
‘Japonica’	5	5	
‘Green Gem’	5	5	
‘Henry Shaw’	4	4	
‘Newport Blue’	5	5	



‘Vardar Valley’ protected by a tree, in a southwest exposure in the St. Louis area.



‘Fastigiata,’ southwest exposure, under trees.

Photos courtesy of Sheila Hoffmeister

Missouri Botanical Garden

St. Louis, MO

EVALUATOR: Shelia Flinchpaugh

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	SE exposure, protected site, sunny most of day, suffering leaf miner and psyllid damage.
'Graham Blandy'	3	3	Protected site, some afternoon sun, support rod, still very small.
'John Baldwin'	5	5	East exposure, surrounded by sidewalks, a winner, one of my favorite boxwood, three more located in different area.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	5	These are scattered throughout boxwood garden in different protected areas, all have different exposures.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	4	Look good.
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	4	Protected site, afternoon sun, needs structural pruning.
'Green Pillow'	4	5	Protected site, afternoon sun, looks good, green.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Jensen'	4	4	New in 2008. Planted in protected site, some afternoon sun, looks good, first winter.
'Justin Brouwers'	4	5	Located in protected area.



Planting of 165 'Fastigiata' in the Japanese garden at Missouri Botanical Garden. An outstanding planting installed 2009.

Missouri Botanical Garden

St. Louis, MO

EVALUATOR: Shelia Flinchpaugh

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Velvet'	5	5	Full sun, looks good, no problems.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	4	4	Protected site, afternoon sun, mostly shade, very healthy.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	4	5	This boxwood is located in a variety of sections, mostly protected sites.
'Elegantissima'	5	5	New, just planted, protected site, part sun/part shade. They are weathering their first winter very well.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	3	4	Look good, mostly sheltered locations, very durable, some pest problems.
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	4	5	The parterre has come back very well from the late spring frost of 2007. I replaced 40 boxwood and pruned the dead wood out of the rest of the parterre and plan to replace a few more this spring. I trimmed the parterre two times during the summer of 2008. The 'Small Leaf Wintergreen' look green and healthy now. It is truly a remarkable recovery.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	4	3	Very protected site, boxwood on either side. Still small, very green and healthy.
Sempervirens [American]	ratings vary	ratings vary	The spring of 2008 was a tough one for the boxwood. There was a terrible problem with leaf miner and psyllid. A spray was needed. This spraying helped control the problem, but there is damage. I also noticed mite damage, scale and webworm damage during the summer. I lost a 'Henry Shaw' due to fountain water and a 'Myrtifolia'. I am not sure what killed it. Also, due to construction, 3 very mature boxwood were relocated to different sites in the boxwood garden. So far, they look good.



'Dee Runk' at Missouri Botanical Garden.



'Vardar Valley' at Missouri Botanical Garden.

Pine View Nursery

Leitchfield, KY

EVALUATOR: Kevin Collard

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	5	I love the form of this plant. Slow but worth the wait.
'Fastigiata'	4	5	A little easier to grow than 'Dee Runk'. Great plant.
'Graham Blandy'	1	4	Great form, lousy roots. Must have excellent drainage!
'John Baldwin'	3	3	Nice, small foliage. Grows fast but takes a while to make specimen.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	4	Tight foliage and form. Very slow. Great small plant.
'Morris Dwarf'	5	3	I wish all boxwood had the root system of this plant!
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	5	5	Probably the hardest, best growing boxwood I grow.
'Green Pillow'	4	4	Very slow! Nice, light green color.
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	2	3	Good plant if given good drainage and slight shade. Not good in container.
Insularis 'Nana'	3	3	Nice form and foliage but not a dependable grower if improperly sited.
'Jensen'	4	5	Pretty plant, show promise. Slow.
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5	A superior plant for us and one of our best growers. A favorite of mine.
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	Handy size and form in the landscape. Susceptible to wet feet in containers.
'Green Velvet'	5	3	Good grower but over-rated in my opinion.



Kevin Collard in a planting of 'Justin Brouwers'

Pine View Nursery

Leitchfield, KY

EVALUATOR: Kevin Collard

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
'Green Mound'	5	4	Superior plant compared to 'Green Velvet'.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	4	Seems to be a good growing plant. Hardier than 'Green Velvet'.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	5	4	Excellent grower, good roots, nice, dark glossy foliage.
'Jim Stauffer'	5	4	Excellent grower, good roots, nice, dark glossy foliage.
'Vardar Valley'	3	4	Great plant if you don't mind waiting 8 - 10 years!
'Elegantissima'	4	5	Nice form and foliage. Good seller! Susceptible to wet feet in containers.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	5	3	Good reliable plant. Grows larger than most people's needs.
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	3	2	Tough plant, not much to look at.
'Elizabeth H. Inglis'	3	4	This plant has great natural form and foliage. Slow grower.
Sempervirens [American]	4	3	Good dependable plant.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Memorial'	5	4	Excellent small, slightly upright grower. Tight foliage, resembles small English.
'Buddy'	5	4	Small mounded grower from KY. Shows great promise.
'Shadow's Sentry'	5	5	Awesome Upright from Don Shadow. Looks like a big pickle.
'Green Gem'	4	4	Nice tight form. Requires little pruning. Bronze in winter sun.
'Natchez'	4	5	Smaller plant similar to 'Vardar Valley'. VERY SLOW.
'Thomas Jefferson'	4	4	B. Semp. selection by the late Thomas Patrick. Nice dark foliage.
'West Ridgeway'	4	4	Looks like dwarf 'Suffruticosa'. Tight and slow.
'Newport Blue'	4	4	Nice blue foliage.
'Stybing Gold'	4	3	Interesting marbled yellow variegation.

Kevin Collard in his propagation area at Pine View Nursery



Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson American Daylily and Perennials

Grain Valley, MO

EVALUATOR: Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4.5	4.5	Needs northern exposure
'Fastigiata'	4.5	4.5	Needs northern exposure
'John Baldwin'	5	4	Great columnar type for Zone 5A
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	3.5	3	Needs northern exposure; sports frequently
'Morris Dwarf'	3.5	3	Very tender; great for pot bonsai
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Justin Brouwers'	3	3.5	Tender in Zone 5A
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	4	4	Nice form; good color
'Green Velvet'	5	4	Best globe form for Zone 5
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	4.5	4.5	Can be coarse-looking
'Elegantissima'			



'John Baldwin' in Western Missouri



'John Baldwin' in Western Missouri

Photos courtesy of Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson

Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson American Daylily and Perennials

Grain Valley, MO

EVALUATOR: Dr. Jack and Jo Roberson

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Green Gem'	3.5	3.5	Slow; small; great for small hedge
'Mary Gamble'	4.5	4.5	Very good for Zone 5
'St. Genevieve'	4.5	4	Needs northern exposure in Zone 5A
'Apple Green'	5	4	Unusual bright green color
Buxus micro. 'Uptight'	5	4	8' height in 20 years; similar to 'John Baldwin'
North Star semp. 'Katerberg'	4.5	4	Good in zone 5
'Edgar Anderson'	4.5	4	
'Joy'	4.5	4.5	
'Curly Locks'	3.5	3	Needs north or east exposure
'Salisafolia'	4.5	4	
'Newport Blue'	4	4	Unusual bluish color



**Buxus microphylla
'Uptight' (ppaf)**
Photo when 18 years
old, 7 feet tall

Scarff's Nursery

New Carlisle, OH

EVALUATOR: Peter Scarff

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Graham Blandy'	2	2	Doesn't like the cold climate and experiences dieback each winter of -5 to -13 degrees. Struggles all year to recover only to get hit again.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	4	5	We always have enough snow to cover these little guys when we go to -15 degrees.
'Morris Dwarf'	4	5	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Mountain'	5	5	A very versatile plant; we grow them as uprights as well as mounds. Makes a great 4'-5' hedge
'Green Velvet'	5	5	By far our most popular.
'Glencoe' [Chicagoland Green]	5	5	I still can't see a discernible difference between this selection and 'Green Velvet'.
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	3	4	Grows well in the shade, looks ratty when in the sun. Needs protection from below-zero temperatures.
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	5	4	By far the hardiest boxwood on the market. Makes a great tall hedge (6'-8'). I'm partial since my Grandfather selected and introduced this cultivar.
OTHER CULTIVARS			
'Green Gem'	5	5	An upright grower if left alone. A great complement as a hedge, and it's gathering a lot of favor among our customers.

Peter Scarff in his container operation of 'Green Mountain' boxwood



The Arboretum State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

Lexington, KY

EVALUATOR: Marcia Farris

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Fastigiata' (tagged)	4.5		Rich green upright
'Graham Blandy'	2.25		Two plants, one fair, one terrible.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Grace Hendrick Phillips'	4.5		Three plants, excellent, partial shade on SW
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Vardar Valley'	4		Like the color, beautiful
'Elegantissima'	2.25		Tips burned back, winter injury?
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Justin Brouwers'	4		Plant looks good
'Jensen'	4.5		Outstanding color (protected area)
'Suffruticosa'	1.75		Has not done well
Insularis 'Nana'	4		Plant looks good
LARGE CULTIVARS			
'Wintergreen' (Big leaf)	2		Straggly, unattractive
'Wintergreen' (Little leaf)	4		Has done well with few problems
Sempervirens [American]	4		Good color



Receiving more plants for testing at The Arboretum.

GROWER COMMENTS Grower Friendliness: 1 = worst or awful, 5 = superior or very friendly, doing well
Impulse Cosmetics: 1 = worst or unsightly, maybe dead, 5 = very pretty, WOW, Simply beautiful

The University of Kentucky at Princeton

Princeton, KY (Western Kentucky)

EVALUATOR: Dr.Winston Dunwell

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics

UPRIGHT CULTIVARS

'Fastigiata'	5	5	
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BUSH CULTIVARS

'Vardar Valley'	5	5	
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These two cultivars were given to Dr.Winston Dunwell at the University of Kentucky in Princeton about 10 years ago when plants were being delivered to the University of Kentucky in Lexington.



Paul Saunders delivering more plants to the University of Kentucky at Princeton.



Dr.Winston Dunwell at the University of Kentucky at Princeton.

INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS REPORT 2011

Introduction



Laurie Jamerson and Paul Saunders taking cuttings from 'Justin Brouwers' to send to China in the spring of 2003.

One of the great thrills in conducting the Boxwood Trials has been the international aspect of the work.

It was 1991, and the last of our seven sons had just completed college. The phone rang while we were on vacation. The caller said, "We have two young Russian men who want to learn about growing plants. Can you provide them work and a place to stay for a year?" Ivan Morozov was one of the young men. He came to stay with us under the auspices of the Future Farmers of America, settled in the United States and went to college, eventually earning his doctorate at Virginia Tech in 2004. Tatum and I became his "adopted American parents."

In 1998, we planned for our vacation to include a visit to Ivan's mother and grandmother in Yalta. Both ladies worked in the world-renowned Nikita Botanical Gardens on the bluffs overlooking the Black Sea in central Asia. When we visited the garden, we met the Director and saw a great variety of

boxwood. At that time, the Boxwood Trials were in their infancy, and I conceived the idea of testing American boxwood overseas, using this location as our first test site. The Director agreed to make arrangements to conduct a test but a problem arose of how to get the plants to him.

Chapter Two of getting boxwood to Asia occurred in 2003. Ivan, who had not seen his mother since leaving the Ukraine in 1992, was visited by her in 2003. When she returned home she carried with her rooted cuttings for the Nikita Botanical Garden.

You may ask, "Why send plants any place other than the United States?" We strongly feel that the more plants that are tested and observed nationally and internationally, the clearer the profile becomes as to the value of those particular cultivars. As the data unfolds worldwide, there are some cultivars that are clearly emerging on the "short list" as the best. The more we test in varying environments, the better we can predict performance.

Republic of Georgia



In 2001, this team went to the Republic of Georgia to search for and collect new boxwood cultivars. Front row: Paul Saunders, Fred Spicer, Dr. Todd Lasseigne. Standing: Tatum Saunders, Charles Fooks, Dr. Tomasz Anisko (team leader) and Dr. Robert Wright.

My wife and I participated in a boxwood collection trip to the Republic of Georgia, just east of the Black Sea, in the summer of 2001. Dr. Tomasz Anisko of Longwood Gardens led this trip. Other members of the team who were participants in collecting 82 different lots of boxwood cuttings and seed for testing were Dr. Todd Lasseigne, then of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University; Frederick Spicer, then of the Frelinghuysen and Willowood Arboreta in Morris County, NJ; Dr. Robert Wright, then a Professor of Horticulture at Virginia Tech; and Charles Fooks, Sr., of Woodland Nursery, Salisbury, MD. All of those on the trip had participated in the National Boxwood Trials.

In March 2002, our guide-translator and one of our hosts from the Republic of Georgia trip came to the United States, visiting many sites along the East Coast. When they returned home, they took back about 60 plants of ten different cultivars to test. A test site was chosen at Batumi, on the seacoast; the other site in the capital of Tbilisi.

This report includes data from those plants that they took home from the United States.

Along the southern range of mountains near the Port of Batumi are forests and gorges with thickets of wild boxwood, similar to the growth of laurel, rhododendron and blueberries in the eastern U. S. mountains. These natural thickets of boxwood contain plants growing in some of the most rugged country imaginable—gorge after gorge of boxwood, growing alongside rhododendron and holly, on nearly vertical slopes made green with the varying shapes and shades.



Two of the International Test Sites, the Nikita Botanical Garden at Yalta in the Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia.



Tatum Saunders with a fine boxwood she selected growing wild near Batumi.



Picnic lunch in Kintrishi Gorge, one of the collection sites



Zura Manvelidze (left) and Dr. Marina Mosulishvili with plants they took home to the Republic of Georgia.



Dr. Marina Mosulishvili holding a rooted cutting at Saunders Brothers Nursery.

Batumi Botanical Garden

Republic of Georgia

EVALUATOR: Zura Manvelidze

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS	IMPULSE COSMETICS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
	5 easy, 1 difficult	5 Wow, 1 ugly	Peculiar or striking characteristics	
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS				
'Dee Runk'	5	5	All ten varieties of boxwood are planted in one small plot. Eastern exposure, sunny all day, but very moist place with many rainy days.	
DWARF CULTIVARS				
'Morris Midget'	5	4		
DWARF TO BUSH				
'Suffruticosa' [English]	5	5		
'Jensen'	5	5		
'Justin Brouwers'	5	5		
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE				
'Green Velvet'	5	4		
BUSH CULTIVARS				
'Green Beauty'	5	4		
'Vardar Valley'	5	5		
'Elegantissima'	5	5		



Mosulishvili photo

Zura Manvelidze of the Republic of Georgia examining a plant in his trials test.

Tbilisi Botanical Garden

Republic of Georgia

EVALUATOR: Dr. Marina Mosulishvili

CULTIVAR	GROWER FRIENDLINESS 5 easy, 1 difficult	IMPULSE COSMETICS 5 Wow, 1 ugly	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Peculiar or striking characteristics
UPRIGHT CULTIVARS			
'Dee Runk'	4	4	All ten varieties of boxwood are planted in one small plot, northeastern exposure, shady, dry climate.
DWARF CULTIVARS			
'Morris Midget'	3	4	
DWARF TO BUSH			
'Suffruticosa' [English]	3	4	
'Jensen'	3	3	
'Justin Brouwers'	4	3	
SHERIDAN AND GLENCOE			
'Green Velvet'	3	3	
BUSH CULTIVARS			
'Green Beauty'	3	4	
'Vardar Valley'	4	4	
'Elegantissima'	3	4	



Mosulishvili photo

Dr. Marina Mosulishvili evaluating boxwood in one of the test gardens in the Republic of Georgia.

Langley Boxwood Nursery

Hampshire, England

EVALUATOR: Russell Coates



Russell Coates, *B. semp.* 'Elegantissima'



Lynda Henderson, *B. sinica* 'Filigree'



Russell Coates holding a specimen of *Buxus rugulosa* var. *intermediate* found on a shaded cliff-like site in N.W. Nepal.



Sue Duckworth with *Buxus sempervirens*



Buxus sempervirens 'Blauer Heinz' in National Collection



Russell Coates with *Buxus sempervirens* 'Golden Dreams'

Nikita Botanical Garden, Yalta, Ukraine



Ludmila Morozova, Tatum Saunders, and Ivan Morozov in 2003. Ludmila carried rooted boxwood cuttings to the Nikita Botanical Garden at Yalta for testing.



The gardens at Yalta

Photo courtesy of Ivan Morozov



The gardens at Yalta

Photo courtesy of Ivan Morozov



Boxwood flank walkways at the Nikita Botanical Garden in Yalta where boxwood is being tested.

It was near here in 1945 that Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met to discuss the fate of Post-War Europe.

Photo courtesy of Ivan Morozov



Photo courtesy of Ivan Morozov



The gardens at Yalta

Part of growing area in Nikita Botanical Garden

Photo courtesy of Ivan Morozov

2011 Boxwood Trials Tally All Participants

	Northeast		MidAtlantic		South		Midwest		U.S. Growers
Upright	Sites	Score	Sites	Score	Sites	Score	Sites	Score	Total Sites Score
Dee Runk	12	4.28	16	4.33	12	4.67	9	4.14	49 4.37
Fastigiata	11	4.24	15	4.30	11	3.89	8	4.56	45 4.23
John Baldwin	7	3.75	8	3.75	7	4.50	7	4.25	29 4.05
Graham Blandy	11	3.38	10	3.55	6	3.63	7	2.50	34 3.29
Dwarf									
Grace H. Phillips	10	3.85	15	4.48	12	4.00	6	4.54	43 4.21
Green Pillow	7	4.29	11	4.30	10	3.43	5	4.20	33 4.02
Morris Dwarf	7	4.43	16	3.91	10	3.50	8	3.81	41 3.88
Morris Midget	9	3.89	9	4.14	12	3.44	7	4.25	37 3.87
Dwarf to Bush									
Justin Brouwers	13	4.09	18	4.36	12	4.08	8	4.34	51 4.22
Jensen	10	4.07	14	4.07	8	3.94	6	4.29	38 4.08
Insularis (Nana)	8	4.09	12	4.00	10	3.35	5	4.00	35 3.84
English	10	2.95	14	3.95	11	3.41	5	2.80	40 3.41
Sheridan and Glencoe									
Green Mountain	12	3.89	12	3.77	10	4.10	8	4.53	42 4.03
Green Velvet	10	4.03	11	3.75	9	3.75	10	4.35	40 3.97
Glencoe	8	3.33	10	3.48	8	3.81	8	4.25	34 3.70
Green Mound	4	2.94	9	3.72	6	3.50	4	4.25	23 3.62
Bush									
Vardar Valley	15	4.49	18	4.28	11	4.32	10	4.40	54 4.37
Elegantissima	9	3.77	16	4.05	11	4.23	7	3.57	43 3.96
Jim Stauffer	8	3.97	11	3.91	8	3.82	4	4.38	31 3.96
Green Beauty	12	3.52	15	4.02	11	3.55	4	4.31	42 3.78
Large and Others									
Elizabeth H. Inglis	5	4.20	6	3.75	5	3.50	4	4.25	20 3.90
Wintergreen Big Leaf	6	4.15	8	3.75	5	4.00	4	3.56	23 3.88
American	7	3.89	12	3.71	11	3.93	4	4.19	34 3.87
Wintergreen Little Leaf	3	4.80	4	2.75	3	3.67	7	4.04	17 3.81

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Here are the 878 observations of these 24 cultivars. There are hundreds of other observations of other cultivars available to the reader as well.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A very special thank you to Adrienne Phillips, my secretary, who has worked many hours enthusiastically and diligently to get this *Report* in its final form. I also want to thank Adrienne for acting as secretary of the National Boxwood Trials for many years. Thanks to Marie Halvorson-Leake and other members of the Saunders team and customers for their help in furnishing many photos.

I want to thank my family for their support: the four sons with whom I work daily at Saunders Brothers, Inc., Tom, Bennett, Jim and Robert, as well as my other three sons, Massie, John and Sam. Thanks, too, to Frank and Ivan, additional blessings along the way.

Most of all, I want to acknowledge the help of my wife of over 50 years, Tatum. She has been co-pilot and partner on my many trips to deliver plants. She also was a member of the boxwood cultivar collecting team which went to the Republic of Georgia in 2001. When we first began in the nursery business, she would drive our pick-up truck to collect discarded gallon cans from the county school kitchens so we could pot boxwood in them. She has taken countless photographs of boxwood on our trips, and has sacrificially spared me to work on my boxwood projects here at home.

Boxwood helped buy my wife's diamond engagement ring, purchase my first car, and



**Adrienne Phillips, Secretary
National Boxwood Trials**



**Tatum collecting boxwood
cuttings on the Georgian trip.**



**Paul, center with sons Robert and Tom on the left, Bennett
and Jim are on right. Each has been very active in boxwood
activities.**

educate seven sons. My interest in boxwood has carried me across this great country and nearly halfway around the world. Over the past twenty-five years, it has been exciting to become acquainted with a number of new cultivars, but more importantly, making friends with so many fine folks along the way. We are looking forward to many more years of working with “the aristocrat of evergreens!”

Paul Saunders



Grandsons Jacob and Patrick, with Grandpa

One day one of these boys asked me, “Papa, how do you propagate boxwood?” That was all the excuse I needed to teach them. Years from now they will be able to teach their brood what their grandpa had so much fun doing for a lifetime.



COPIES OF THE REPORT

Copies of this Report are available for \$20.00 each. Make your check payable to *National Boxwood Trials*, and mail it to 2717 Tye Brook Highway, Piney River, VA 22964



*Is there any wonder that they call boxwood,
“The Aristocrat of Evergreens?”*



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