



## Alternatives For Boxwood

At this time, we've decided not to carry boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) in the nursery. Last year the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) killed many of these plants and this invasive pest is expected to continue to spread. Because the larvae can strip and kill a boxwood in two or three days, we feel that it's not fair to sell a plant to customers that they are likely to lose. Should there be a way to eliminate this pest in the future, we may be able to stock boxwoods again. In the meantime, people who already have boxwood in their landscapes should drench their boxwoods with Spinosad (Captain Jack's) monthly from early April through August. Here are some substitute evergreens to use instead of boxwood.

**Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*)** There are many varieties of Japanese holly. Some stay short and round, others grow to 4 to 6 feet tall and wide. Look for the mature size that fits your location. These plants prefer full sun to part shade, and they can be sheared or hand pruned when needed.

**Inkberry Holly (*Ilex glabra*)** This native Ilex is available in assorted cultivars. Look for the mature size you prefer. Inkberry prefers well drained, acidic soil and will grow in full sun to part shade. Can be sheared.

**Japanese plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*)** – This needled evergreen has longer needles than other yews. 'Fastigiata' is a thin, skinny plant and there are others that grow into a rounded shape. Part shade. Not as attractive to deer as other yews.

**Hybrid Yew (*Taxus x media*)** There are many varieties of hybrid yews; some are spreading, some upright, and others semi-dwarf. Full sun to part shade and well-drained soil. These can be sheared, and most benefit from at least one shearing per season. Drought tolerant. Bark, leaves and seeds are poisonous to humans and pets.

**Euonymus (*Euonymus* species and varieties)** You will find dozens of varieties of Euonymus, from Manhattan, Box Leaf, 'Grandifolius,' 'Green Spire,' and 'Emerald Gaiety' to the low-growing winter creeper. Most tolerate full sun and deep shade but do best in part sun or dappled shade. Watch for the white euonymus scale and spray with All Seasons Oil if it appears.

**Otto Luken Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken')** A dark green, broadleaf evergreen that stays under 4 feet tall. Sun or shade. Best when hand pruned, not sheared.

Note: These are all plants that we commonly stock, although we may not always have all varieties at the same time. Contact us for details.

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