

BEWARE!



Hedges defoliated by Box Tree Moth

Description

Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) is a Lepidopteran moth native of East Asia (China, Japan and Korea). It was introduced to Europe in 2007 and in Italy in 2010. In 2013 it was first observed in the Marche Region. Its infesting larvae can heavily defoliate several Buxus tree species.

Symptoms and Damages

The evident damages caused by the feeding larvae are the total or partial loss of foliar tissue on the leaves except for nervations. Infested box trees plants do severely defoliate and are recognisable by the typical intertwine of silk threads between the leaves and the small branches. The attached hedges look deteriorated, with yellowing of the entire canopy or part of it.

Host plants

In Europe attacked plants belong to the *Buxaceae* family *Buxus sempervirens*, *Buxus sinica* and

Buxus microphylla). Within the area of origin, among the additional observed host plants, are *Euonymus japonicus*, *Euonymus alatus* and *Ilex purpurea*.

What's in case of suspected occurrence?

In case of suspected symptoms do **immediately inform** the Regional Plant Protection Organization:

1. contact the closest office of the Regional Plant Protection Organization by e-mail or telephone (providing name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail and exact detection site);
2. if possible, do catch the lepidoptera and conserve it soaked in alcohol in a closed vial;
3. if possible, to be sure not to have confused it with other insects, do send a photograph to fit@assam.marche.it;
4. it is forbidden to transport **alive insects** or **infested plants**.

Marche Region Plant Protection Organization - ASSAM Via dell'industria 1- Osimo (AN)

email: fit@assam.marche.it		web : www.assam.marche.it/fitosanitario	
Main headquarter and Province of Ancona:	☎ 071-8081	☎ 071-85979	
Provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo:	☎ 0735-654131	☎ 0735-654131	
Province of Macerata:	☎ 0733-233771	☎ 0733-272380	
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