

BOXWOOD ALTERNATIVES

As the Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) continues to spread throughout WV and the U.S., many Boxwoods will die unless treated for this pest. Many landscapers, homeowners, and gardeners may decide to remove their boxwoods and replace them with another shrub to avoid the costs and labor of treatments. This handout provides a list of native, easy-to-grow, and attractive plants that make great replacements for Boxwood.



ALTERNATIVE



Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

- Fragrant, semi-evergreen foliage
- 5 to 10 feet in height
- Attractive, fragrant, white colored fruits persist into winter
- Good for erosion control
- Excellent tolerance to winter salt treatments.
- Zones 3 to 7



ALTERNATIVE

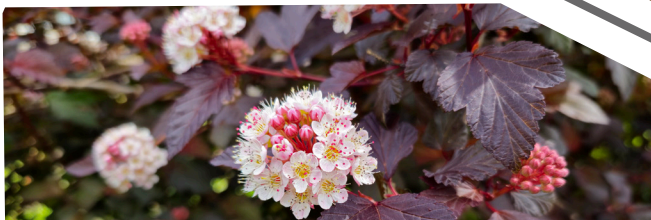


Inkberry (*Ilex galbra*)

- Evergreen foliage
- 5 to 8 feet in height
- Good privacy screen
- Attractive black colored fruits persist into winter
- Similar growth form and texture to boxwoods
- Zones 4 to 9

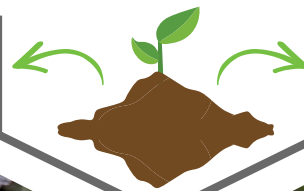


ALTERNATIVE



Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

- Foliage is deciduous. Several cultivars exist with foliage that ranges from burgundy to yellow in color
- 5 to 8 feet in height although dwarf cultivars exist which are much more compact.
- Showy pink to white flowers appear in late spring to early summer.
- Deer do not typically browse.
- Zones 2 to 8



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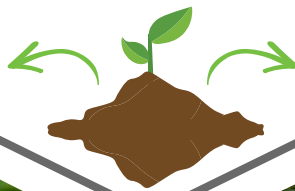


Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolium*)

- Evergreen Foliage
- 3 to 6 feet in height
- Showy yellow flowers in spring
- Showy, edible dark blue to black colored berries
- Tolerant to deer browse
- Zones 5 to 8



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Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)

- Needled evergreen
- Generally a tree but several dwarf cultivars exist
- Dwarf cultivars can be used in foundation plantings, around driveways, etc.
- Foliage is fragrant when crushed
- Zones 5 to 8



Azaleas (*Rhododendron Spp.*)

- Broadleaf, both deciduous and evergreen
- Variable size with many small cultivars
- Numerous species and cultivars available with diverse colors of flowers and even foliage type
- Species and cultivars exhibit variable cold tolerance but most are hardy in zones 4 to 8



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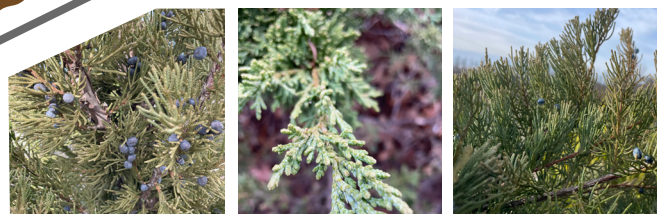


ALTERNATIVE



Bird's Nest Spruce (*Picea abies 'Nidiformis'*)

- Needled evergreen
- Height 2 to 5 feet
- Compact evergreen that makes a great specimen or can be used as a low hedge similar to boxwood
- Deer to not typically browse and it is tolerant of poor-quality growing conditions
- Zones 3 to 7



Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)

- Needled evergreen
- Height 5 to 20 feet, many small-sized cultivars exist
- Foliage is fragrant, and can range in color from different shades of green to blue depending on cultivar.
- Resistant to deer browse and poor dry sites. Excellent hedge along parking lots, driveways, etc.
- Zones 2 to 7

CONTACT US

If you believe you have an invasive pest, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture would like to know about it.

To report your sighting, send an e-mail to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture invasive species detection account at bugbusters@wvda.us. You can also call to report at 304-558-2212.

