

## Box plant symptoms

Examine the samples carefully and describe what you can see

### Healthy box plant

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### Sample 1.

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### Sample 2.

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### Sample 3.

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### Sample 4.

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### Sample 5.

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### Sample 6.

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### Using keys to identify plant health problems

Keys can be presented as text questions, flow charts, tables or Venn diagrams. Text keys are often based on a series of questions or paired statements which have two answers, e.g. 'yes' and 'no', or 'leaves are green' and 'leaves are not green'. We are going to use the symptoms of diseases, pests and disorders of box plants (*Buxus* spp.) we have observed here to create a text key.

## Creating a key to box plant problems

To help you design your key you will need to create a table of symptoms associated with each problem.

You should now have a sheet which identifies the name of the problem for each sample you have examined.

Write the names of the problems in the table.

Describe a characteristic symptom and place a tick in the table if the problem has this symptom.

Symptom description	Problem						
	Healthy box	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Stems have small black lines on them							

You can now use your table of symptoms to help you create a series of questions to identify the problems.

An example has been filled in for you.

Q1. Do the stems have small black lines on them?	Yes	Box blight fungus
	No	Go to Q2

Q2.  
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Q3.  
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Q4.  
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Q5.  
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Q6.  
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Q7.  
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Can someone else use your key on an unlabelled box plant sample and make the correct diagnosis?