

Boxwood Leafminer Adults

It's time to be watching for boxwood leafminer adult activity. Here in Lexington, I found **numerous adults swarming** around this boxwood. These flies are only active for a short period of time, approximately two weeks. During this time, females lay their eggs in boxwood foliage. When the eggs hatch, the larvae begin mining the leaves and will eventually cause **blister-like damage** to the foliage.



Chemical control of this pest is achieved using an insecticide spray to target flying adults or using a systemic product to target leaf-mining larvae.

For recommended products, see this [fact sheet](#) from North Carolina State University.

Left: Boxwood leafminer adults (very small orange flies)

Photo: Sarah J. Vanek, University of Kentucky

Birch Leafminers

Birch leafminers cause considerable damage to several species of birch trees, especially **paper birch, gray birch, and European white birch**.

Systemic products targeting the mining larvae should be applied as soon as **signs of egg-laying or mining** are noticed (right).

Here in Lexington, egg hatch has recently begun, and **tiny larvae are just beginning to feed**.

For more information about the biology and management of this pest, see this [fact sheet](#) from The Ohio State University.



Spotting caused by birch leafminer egg-laying and initial mining

Photo: Sarah J. Vanek, University of Kentucky

Always Read and Follow Label Directions for Safe Use of Any Pesticide!