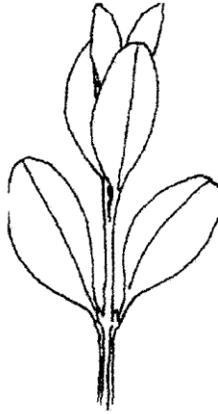


Littleleaf Boxwood*Buxus microphylla*

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This shrub has become one of the most widely used plants for hedges in small and formal gardens. Its normal form is a rounded diminutive shrub that grows to 3-4' high. However, the littleleaf boxwood is more commonly used as a tightly pruned hedge 1.5-3' high. It is particularly good to line sidewalks, as foundation plantings and to create a parterre which is a formal design on the ground. Boxwood has opposite, 0.33-1" oval leaves that are a medium green that turn yellow to bronze in the winter. Its evergreen nature, dense branching pattern, small leaves and amenability to pruning makes this a favored shrub in the urban garden. There are two varieties, *japonica* and *koreana*. *Japonica* is use more in the southeast and southwest and *koreana* is more cold hardy and used in the north.

HABIT AND SIZE: A compact, dense and rounded or mounded shrub with a dense branching habit. Normal growth is to 3-4' high and wide although often tightly pruned as a hedge.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Excellent for low hedges, as a foundation planting or as repetition in a more formal landscape.

LEAVES: Oppositely arranged, simple, 0.33-1" and obovate to rounded-obovate. Obtuse or emarginated (i.e. with a shallow notch) at the apex and cuneate at the base with a short smooth petiole. The color is a medium to light green turning yellow to brown to bronze in winter.

FLOWERS: Apetalous in axillary or terminal clusters. Staminate flowers in lateral inflorescences of 4 overlapping sepals and 4 thick filamented stamens opposite the sepals. Pistillate flowers terminal with 6 overlapping sepals and a 3 celled ovary with 3 short styles.

FRUIT: An ovoid loculicidally dehiscent capsule that is three pointed due to persistence of the 3 styles.

BUD: Small, single, stalkless, ovoid with 1 or 2 pairs of visible leaflike scales.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Winter injury and sun scald plus scale, mealybug and leaf miners.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: *Japonica*, zones 6-9 and *koreana* zones 4-9.

CULTIVARS: 'Wintergreen'- a cultivar of *koreana* that remains green throughout the winter, one of the best.