

Browning Hedge Diagnostic Checklist

Dragonetti Tree Removal - NYC hedge care 2026

Work through these before you treat or remove a hedge

1 Check the soil a few inches down

Soggy and sour means too much water; bone dry means too little. Both cause browning.

2 Scratch the bark on a few brown branches

Green or cream underneath is alive and savable; brown and brittle is dead and should come out.

3 Read the browning pattern

Bottom-up is water; spots and fast drop is disease; hollow inside is pests; street-side is salt or winter burn.

4 Look for boxwood blight on boxwoods

Dark leaf spots and black stem streaks with rapid leaf drop. Stop pruning and bag the leaves.

5 Pull mulch back off the stems

Buried root flares stay wet and brown from the inside. A simple, free fix.

6 Flush road salt in early spring

Soak the root zone of curbside hedges with plain water before new growth starts.

Dragonetti Tree Removal cares for hedges across Brooklyn and NYC. Contact us for a hedge assessment.