



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team

December 2018

A Wet and Mild End to December

Forecasts are predicting above average chance for wetter and warmer than average temperatures from December 24th to January 1st.

Looking farther into the new year, the current long range forecasts predict a return to more typically cooler average temperatures throughout January, February and March with an above average chance for reduced precipitation overall in the northern part of the state.

Please see the [UKAg Weather Center's Long Range Outlooks](#) for more information.

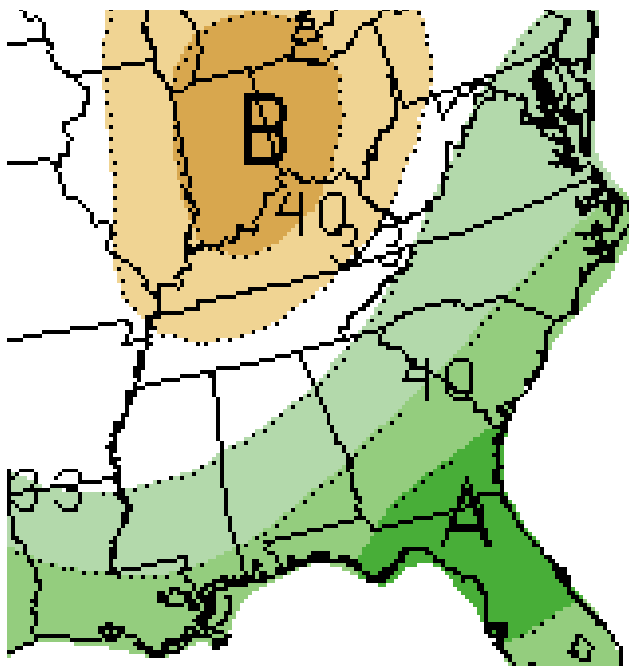
Nursery Crops Extension & Research Team

Winston Dunwell
Extension Professor
270.365.7541 x209

Dewayne Ingram
Extension Professor
859.257.8903

<https://NCER.ca.uky.edu/>

Joshua Knight, Managing Editor



Three-Month Outlook
Precipitation Probability, 1.5 Month Lead
Valid Jan-Feb-Mar 2019

- **Tree Thief to Holiday Tradition: The Story of Mistletoe**
- **KNLA Winter Educational Outing & Expo Reminder and Program**



Tree Thief to Holiday Tradition: The Story of Mistletoe

Nicole Gauthier, Extension Professor, Plant Pathology

Once autumn leaves have fallen, mistletoe becomes highly visible on large trees throughout Kentucky. *Phoradendron*, the scientific name for Kentucky's most common variety of this parasitic plant, means tree thief. These small leafy plants are commonly found on twigs and branches of many hardwood species in the southern United States. Mistletoe extracts (steals) water, mineral elements and food from tree hosts; hence the name.

Mistletoe use in holiday traditions has roots in pagan times. The appearance of a live parasitic plant while the host tree appears dead led some to believe mistletoe mysteriously held the life of the tree during winter. Druids harvested mistletoe in a special rite, never allowing the plant to touch the ground, and then hung it in their homes for good luck.

Our modern-day mistletoe holiday tradition likely originates with a mythological Norse goddess of love and beauty. Frigga, whose son was restored from possible death by mistletoe, was thought to bestow a kiss on anyone walking beneath one. Today, when two people meet under the mistletoe, tradition suggests they must exchange a kiss for good luck.

Phoradendron has simple, fleshy green leaves arranged oppositely on the stem (Figure 1). Stems are short and more branched than host trees, so mistletoe often appears as a spherical bunch of dense vegetation (Figure 2).



Figure 1. The *Phoradendron* variety of mistletoe has simple, fleshy green leaves

Photo: Paul A. Mistretta, USDA Forest Service, bugwood.org



Figure 2. Mistletoe often appear as a spherical bunch of dense vegetation.

Photo: John Hartman, University of Kentucky

Continued on next page...

These bunches may be a foot or two in diameter and are located high in the tree where sun exposure is greatest. Mistletoe berries range from white to straw-colored to light red. Birds eat the fruits, reportedly toxic to human and animals, then deposit the seeds onto branches where they germinate and penetrate the next host tree.

Mistletoe commonly appears in open-grown trees where birds tend to roost, thereby less frequently in forest trees. Generally, they cause minimal damage, although they can be harmful to stressed trees. Mistletoe can be removed from landscape trees by pruning.

Additional Resources

University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Extension Publications

<http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>

2019 KNLA's winter

EDUCATIONAL OUTING & EXPO

Date:

January 23rd-24th, 2019

Registration

Attendees click [here](#)
Exhibitors click [here](#)

Location:

Holiday Inn Louisville East
1325 South Hurstbourne Parkway

Email

knla.org@gmail.com

Phone

(502) 330-8300



Education Tracks:

Day 1

Crew Academy
Production

Day 2

Pest Management
Plants and Design



Kentucky Nursery & Landscape
ASSOCIATION

Class Schedule

Wed., Jan. 23rd. and Thurs., Jan. 24th.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. (EST)	CREW ACADEMY January 23, 2019 Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	PRODUCTION TRACK / BUSINESS MANAGEMENT January 23, 2019 Carriage Ballroom
MORNING BREW		
8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Water Sense to Save You "Cents" Improving Water Management in Landscape Holding Yards and Retail Nurseries Jake Shreckhise, Ph.D., USDA Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.	Good, Better, Best LED Lighting Systems Chuck Watterson, Wolf Creek Company	Filtration of Irrigation Water Dewayne Ingram, Ph.D., University of Kentucky
10:25 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	Organic vs Sustainable vs No Spray vs Low Spray Nicole Ward Gauthier, Ph.D., University of Kentucky	Natural Season Garden Mum Production Practices Steve Berberich., University of Kentucky
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH & EXPO Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	The Planting Hole – More Than Just a Hole in the Ground William M. Fountain, Ph.D., University of Kentucky	Five Years In: How is Hemp Doing in Kentucky Thomas Keene., University of Kentucky
2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Pests, Pollinators, Pesticides and Personal Protection Ric Bessin, Ph.D., University of Kentucky	Tree & Landscape Appraisal – Arriving at a Defendable Dollar Value William M. Fountain, Ph.D., University of Kentucky
3:10 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.	Pruning Principles and BMPs Dave Leonard, Leading Technologies, LLC, Versailles, Kentucky	Herbicides for Nursery Production Mark Czarnota, Ph.D., University of Georgia
4:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	KNLA Annual Meeting and Reception Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. (EST)	PEST MANAGEMENT TRACK January 24, 2019 Carriage Ballroom	PLANTS AND DESIGN TRACK January 24, 2019 Ellis/Turfway Ballroom
MORNING BREW		
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Woodland Garden Design: Dynamic and Conserving Rick Darke, RICK DARKE LLC, Landenberg, PA Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
9:35 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.	Transplant Shock: Disease or Cultural Problem? Nicole Ward Gauthier, Ph.D. Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky	Native Plants: A Season at LBL's Hematite Lake Winston Dunwell, Ph.D. University of Kentucky
10:40 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	Troublesome Weeds of Nursery / Landscape Mark Czarnota, Ph.D., University of Georgia	Diversity by Design: Growing and Planting with Nature Andrea Mueller, InsideOut Design, Kentucky
11:40 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH & EXPO Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Rose Rosette and Boxwood Blight Alan Windham, Ph.D., University of Tennessee	Plant Choices and Strategies for Layered Kentucky Landscapes Rick Darke, RICK DARKE LLC, Pennsylvania
2:35 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.	Managing New Pests and Concerns Ric Bessin, Ph.D., Dept. Entomology, University of Kentucky	Green Heart Louisville Project Christopher Chandler, The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky
3:40 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	
Plants are more than pretty! How to explain that to consumers Marvin Miller, Ph.D., Ball Horticultural, Illinois Ellis/Turfway Ballroom		

DAILY CEU'S

	Wednesday	Thursday
Arborist	10	9
Pesticide	5	5
Landscape Architect	3	9.5

Speaker Sponsors:



The University of Kentucky's **Nursery Crop Extension Research Team** is based out of two locations across the bluegrass to better serve our producers.

The **University of Kentucky Research and Education Center (UKREC)** in **Princeton** serves western Kentucky producers while our facilities and personnel on main campus in **Lexington** serve central and eastern Kentucky producers.

Check out our [YouTube Channel!](#)

Like us on [facebook!](#)

Contact Us

Western Kentucky

UK Research & Education Center
1205 Hopkinsville Street
P.O. Box 496
Princeton, KY 42445
270-365-7541

Central / Eastern Kentucky

UK Main Campus
Horticulture Department
N-318 Ag. Science Center North
859-257-1273

Visit us on the web at

<https://NCER.ca.uky.edu/>

An Equal Opportunity University | University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture