



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

# Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team

End of December 2019

## Warmer, Wetter than Average Transition to 2020

The last stretch of December is likely to be warmer than average for the eastern half of the US and this pattern is predicted to hold for the first half of January, before returning to more typical temperatures.

The rest of the year and all of January is showing a high probability of above average precipitation for almost the entire state.

See [UKAg Weather's Long Range Outlooks](#) for a variety of forecasts of temperature and precipitation probabilities.

## Nursery Crops Extension & Research Team

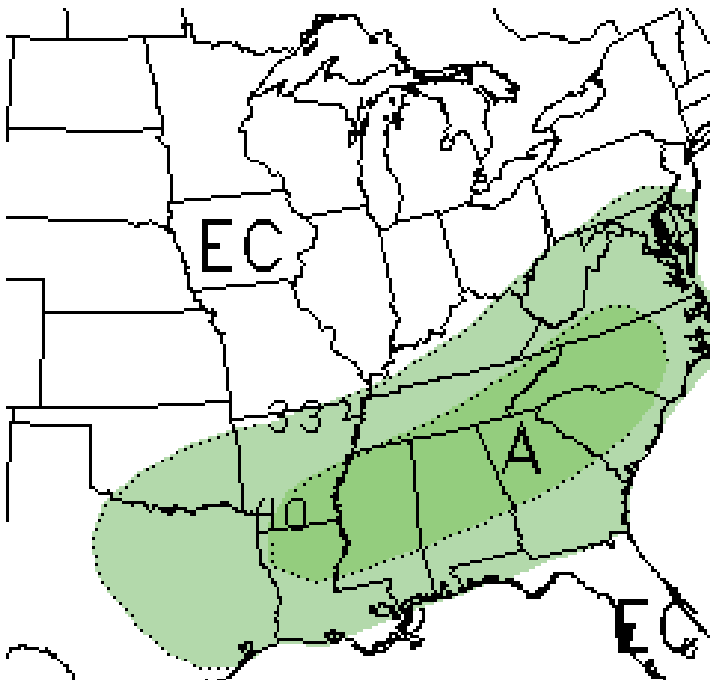
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Joshua Knight, Managing Editor



Jan 2020, Precipitation Probability  
Image: NOAA Climate.gov, 19 DEC 2019

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

# Tree Thief to Holiday Tradition: The Story of Mistletoe

*Nicole Ward-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). 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.

## Additional Resources

- University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Extension Publications ([link](#))



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

Photo: Paul A. Mistretta, USDA Forest Service



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

Photo: John Hartman, University of Kentucky



**Event Location: Holiday Inn Louisville East**

**Dates: 22 Jan 2020 – 23 Jan 2020**

[Click here for registration](#)

### **Kentucky's Premier Green industry Educational Conference**

Please join us at the Holiday Inn, Louisville East on January 22-23, 2020 at our annual Winter Education Conference! Last year was one of our most successful events in recent years and this year won't disappoint, but we need you, our sponsors, to make it happen!

Once again, we have many opportunities for you and your business to get noticed and to help support our growing organization. Whether you'd like to sponsor lunch, a speaker, morning coffee, or the hospitality suite, we have a sponsorship to fit each need and budget!

I want to thank those of you who continue to support us over the years and can't wait to see some new faces this year as we reach out to up and coming businesses in our beautiful state!

We want to make sure to thank our sponsors as they are always present and we could not make this happen without their unwavering support!

if you require a paper form to fill out to mail in with your payment, please submit the [Sponsorship Form](#) or contact Melanie at [melanie@knla.org](mailto:melanie@knla.org)

If you have any questions about sponsorship or anything related to the KNLA, please don't hesitate to either email us at [melanie@knla.org](mailto:melanie@knla.org) or call (502) 330-8300

# Class Schedule

Wed., Jan. 22nd. and Thurs., Jan. 23rd.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. (EST)	<b>CREW ACADEMY</b> January 22, 2020 Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	<b>PRODUCTION / BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</b> January 22, 2020 Carriage Ballroom
<b>8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>MORNING BREW</b> Boxwood Blight Status in 2020 and the impact on Producers and Landscapers <b>Brian Decker - Decker's Nursery - Ellis/Turfway Ballroom</b>	
<b>9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.</b>	DOT Compliance in the World of Landscaping <b>Sgt. Jason Morris - Kentucky State Police</b>	Poly & Plastic Container Recycling <b>Recycling Panelists: Barry Prater, Ben Pedigo, Greg Butler</b>
<b>10:25 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.</b>	Considerations for Disease Diagnosis. <i>Where do you start? What do you see?</i> <b>Nicole Ward Gauthier, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>	Systems Approaches for a Better Future <b>Tom Buechel - Buechel Horticulture Solutions, LLC</b>
<b>11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH &amp; MARKETPLACE EXPO</b> Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
<b>1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</b>	Principles of Pruning in the Nursery and Landscape <b>William M. Fountain, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>	Kentucky Fatality Prevention Task Force <b>Colonel Danny E. Davis, USAF, Retired - Kentucky Labor Cabinet</b>
<b>2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.</b>	Pest Detectives: Recognizing Insect Pest Symptoms <b>Jonathan Larson, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>	Overview of Hemp Production and the Kentucky Hemp Program <b>Doris Hamilton - Kentucky Department of Agriculture</b>
<b>3:10 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.</b>	Chainsaw Safety & Operation <b>Cody Dunkin - Bryan Equipment Sales, Inc.</b>	Opportunities in Commercial Hemp Propagation <b>Robert Geneve, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>
<b>4:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>KNLA Annual Meeting and Reception</b> Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. (EST)	<b>PEST MANAGEMENT</b> January 23, 2020 Carriage Ballroom	<b>PLANTS AND DESIGN</b> January 23, 2020 Ellis/Turfway Ballroom
<b>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>MORNING BREW</b> Garden Innovations: The Golden Age of Plant Breeding <b>Tom Ranney, Ph.D - North Carolina State University</b> Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
<b>9:05 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.</b>	Water Molds and Root Rot Disease: Getting to the Root of the Problem <b>Nicole Ward Gauthier, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>	Underutilized Landscape Plants for Zones 5 & 6 <b>Jack Shreckhise, Ph.D - USDA - ARS</b>
<b>10:10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.</b>	Weed Control for Landscapes and Field Nurseries <b>James Atland, Ph.D - USDA - ARS</b>	Building the Botanical Garden: Beyond the Name and Expectation <b>Jamie Burghardt - Waterfront Botanical Gardens</b>
<b>11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH &amp; MARKETPLACE EXPO</b> Ellis/Turfway Ballroom	
<b>12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</b>	It's Not Easy Being (ever) Green: A Closer Look at Needle Cast and Pine Decline <b>Nicole Ward Gauthier, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>	Creating and Managing Green/ Natural Spaces in your Community - <i>Basics of Why &amp; How</i> <b>Jack Pizzo, PLA,ICN - The Pizzo Group</b>
<b>1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.</b>	Dealing with Invasive Species in Landscapes <b>Jonathan Larson, Ph.D - University of Kentucky</b>	Thinking Beyond the Conventional: Decoding Landscape Performance Metrics <b>Scott Southall - Earth Cycle Design, LLC</b>
<b>2:55 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.</b>	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Nature, Health & Well Being <b>Dr. Aruni Bhatnager, Ph.D, F.A.H.A. - University of Louisville</b>	

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!](#)

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

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