College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team | End of March 2020

First Half of April Cooler than Average, Wetter Overall

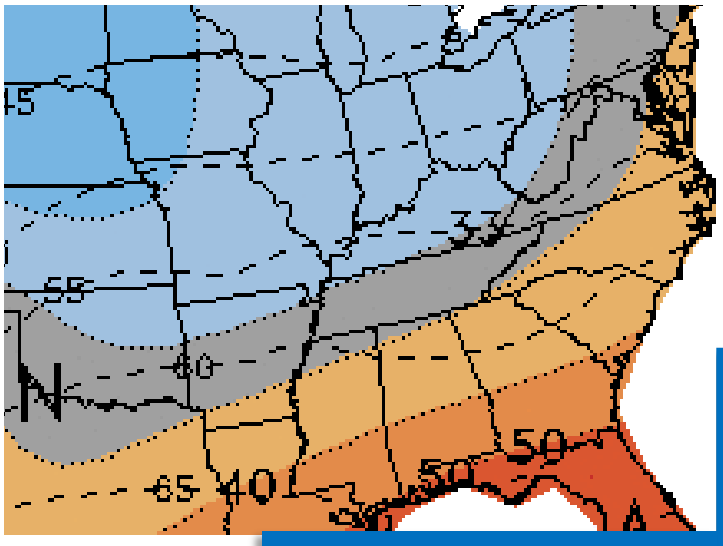
The first week of April is forecasted to be typical in terms of temperature, though likely to be wetter than average. That trend of increased likelihood of precipitation should continue throughout the month.

Moving into the second week, the temperatures are predicted to be cooler than average with an overall forecast of warmer than average temperatures for the month.

This mixed set of temperature probabilities, which has been changing significantly in the last few days, is likely to mean our temperatures from day to day will have a lot of variability throughout April.

Overall, we should be able to expect wetter than average weather conditions for the month.

See **UKAg Weather's Long Range Outlooks** for a variety of forecasts of temperature and precipitation probabilities.



8-14 Day Outlook, April 06-12, 2020
Temperature Probability
NOAA Climate.gov, 20 FEB 2020

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- **Last Year's Ornamental Diseases Equal This Year's Disease Risk**
- **Managing COVID-19**
- **Bark Ambrosia Beetle Alert**

Last Year's Ornamental Diseases Forecasts This Year's Disease Risk

Kim Leonberger, Extension Associate, Plant Pathology
Nicole Gauthier, Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology

Disease presence last year can indicate a risk for the same disease this year. Many pathogens overwinter on infected plant material or as pathogen survival structures. Poor sanitation practices can lead to an increased risk of these diseases in the upcoming season. A summary of ornamental samples submitted to University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratories in 2019 are displayed here. The most common diseases of herbaceous ornamentals were root, stem, and crown rots (Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia, Thielaviopsis, Anthracnose) and foliar blights (Rhizoctonia, Botrytis, Phytophthora, Phoma, and other misc. fungal diseases) (Figure 1). In woody ornamentals (trees and woody shrubs), the most common diseases were leaf spots (including Anthracnose, powdery mildew, and other misc. fungal diseases) and canker diseases (including Volutella canker) (Figure 2).

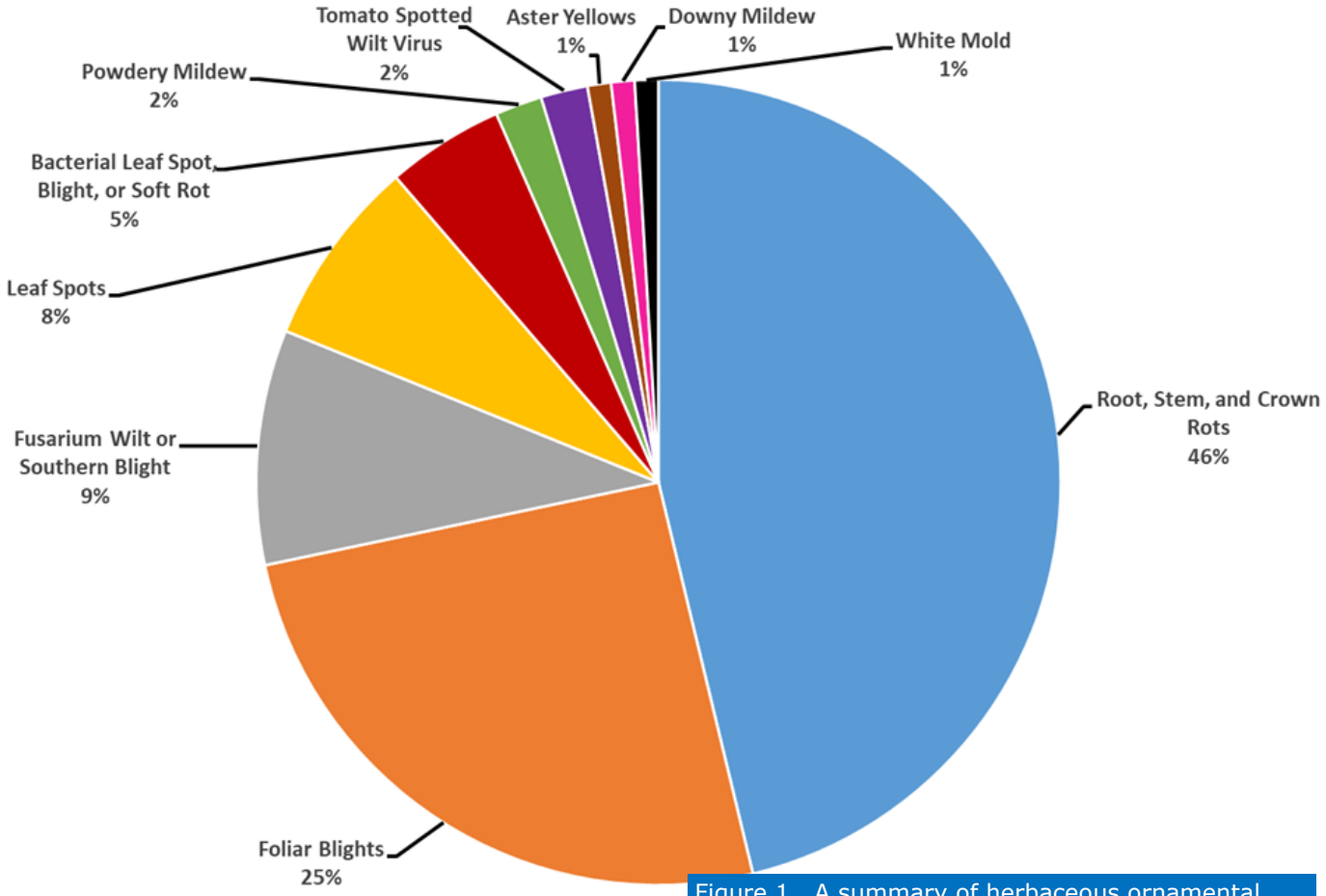

Figure 1. A summary of herbaceous ornamental disease samples submitted to UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratories in 2019.

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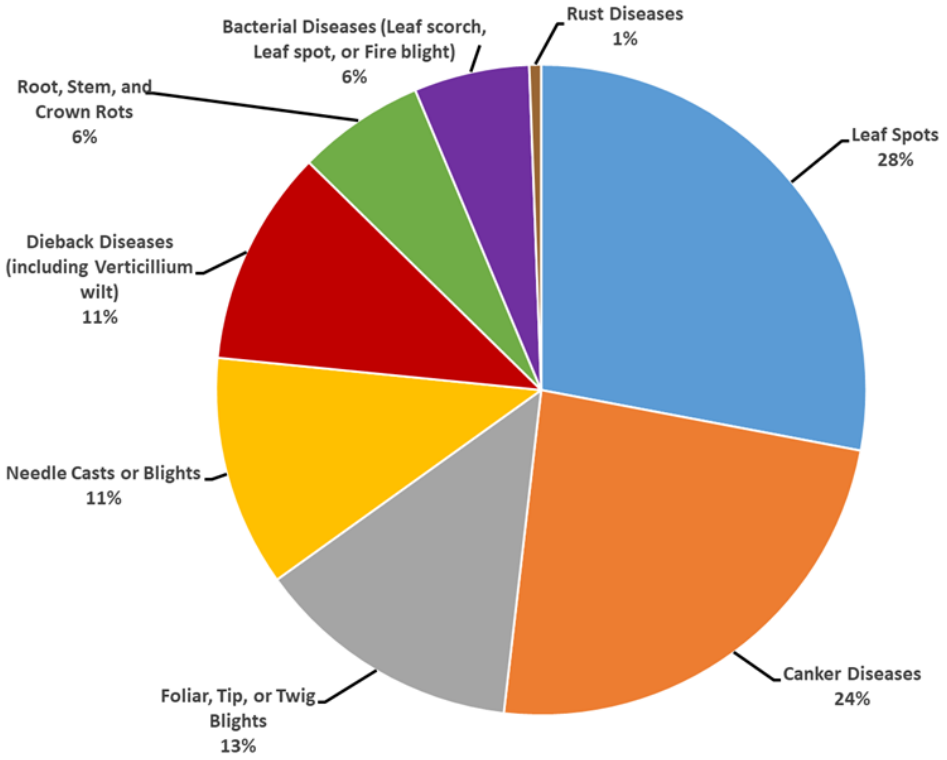

Figure 2. A summary of woody ornamental samples submitted to UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratories in 2019. Phytoplasmas, fungal and bacterial gall diseases, and virus diseases were also diagnosed on woody ornamentals in 2019. Each group represents less than 1% each of the total woody ornamental disease samples and are not included in the pie chart.

Assessment of diseases likely to occur during the growing season provides the opportunity to utilize preventative management measures. The University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Department provides numerous publications with additional information and management options for these diseases. County Extension agents also provide information on disease diagnosis and management.

Resources

- Plant Pathology Extension Publications (Link)
- Black Root Rot of Ornamentals (PPFS-OR-W-03)
- "Wet Feet" of Ornamentals (PPFS-OR-W-04)
- Shade Tree Anthracnose (PPFS-OR-W-23)
- Powdery Mildew (PPFS-GEN-02)
- Volutella Blight of Boxwood (PPFS-OR-W-26)
- Boxwood Blight (PPFS-OR-W-20)
- Managing Diseases of Herbaceous Ornamentals (PPFS-OR-H-01)
- Greenhouse Sanitation (PPFS-GH-04)
- Landscape Sanitation (PPFS-GEN-04)
- Homeowner's guide to fungicides (PPFS-GEN-07)
- Fungicides for Management of Landscape Woody Ornamentals Diseases (PPFS-OR-W-14)

Managing for COVID-19

Joshua Kight, Extension Associate, Nursery Crops

COVID-19 will change how employees are managed and ways in which companies operate in the green industry. It is important to focus on the health of employees and their family. This a huge challenge for the nursery industry as it depends heavily on physical labor. The great thing about the nursery industry is that work is mostly outside. There are some simple common-sense sanitation practices that can be used to limit the spread of COVID-19.

1) **FREQUENT HAND WASHING**, this is the first line of defense against COVID-19. Download this poster from Penn State, it is a handwashing poster in English and Spanish, and can be put in trucks, lunchrooms, and houses. https://extension.psu.edu/handwashing-poster

2) Implement distancing measures, this can be achieved by staggering work schedules, limiting the amount of in-person meetings for office staff, and reducing un-necessary travel. Managing a large pool of employees has its challenges, and not all distancing techniques can be implemented but, make changes where changes can be made.

3) In common areas, such as breakrooms, water fountains, office space, bathrooms, provided employee housing, and porta-potties, develop stringent cleaning schedules and protocols. **This important step could prevent your whole work force from spreading and contracting COVID-19.** Spend the money and keep your workforce healthy, they are your most valuable assets.

4) Trucks, and equipment. Wipe down the interior of trucks two times a day. Wipe down your equipment as well, especially if changing operators.

5) Cough and sneeze into your elbow.

6) If you are sick **STAY AT HOME**.

7) Implement an emergency plan for COVID-19 for management should an employee show signs of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, this especially important for the H2A workers.

These few simple steps will help to keep employees healthy, and ease anxiety in the staff during these uncertain times. The good thing is that the industry will get through this, just a few extra safety precautions are necessary at this current time.

More resources for COVID-19 management

https://extension.psu.edu/handwashing-poster

https://extension.psu.edu/coronavirus-best-management-practices-for-the-green-industry

https://www.oan.org/page/coronavirus

https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200309

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Bark Ambrosia Beetle Alert

Excerpted from University of Tennessee, Soil and Plant Pest Center

Tennessee State researchers have announced that a single granulate ambrosia beetle (Labelled as “B” in the images below) and two black stem borers (Letter “C” below) were caught on Wednesday March 18 by Dr. Jason Oliver at the TSU Otis Floyd Nursery Research Center in McMinnville, TN. Cooler temperatures over the next few days should reduce beetle flight and attacks of trees. So far, no tree attacks have been reported. Look for sawdust tubes being pushed out of the tree as each beetle chews a clean gallery into the tree. When temperatures increase to the 70s next week, consider apply protective insecticide sprays, especially to deciduous trees that were stressed from the flash drought last September. I am running an alcohol baited trap and will let you know when beetle flight activity has resumed.

Figure 1.

A) Camphor shot borer

B) Granulate ambrosia beetle

C) Black stem borer

D) Size comparison in millimeters

Photo: Zenaida Viloria

Additional Resources

ENTFACT-459: Non-Native Ambrosia Beetles: Damage and Management from the UK Entomology Department for more info on these insects.

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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