



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team

End of May 2021

Typical Start to June, but Wetter Overall

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting first week of June to be an equal chance of warmer or cooler than average temperatures, with above average precipitation in the western part of the commonwealth and the southern Midwest states down into Texas as part of a regional system of cooler and wetter than average conditions.

This pattern is predicted to continue throughout June as the regional pattern moves east with above average precipitation and an equal chance of warmer and cooler than average temperatures.

Further ahead, the 3 month picture for June, July and August is simpler: above average precipitation in the eastern half of Kentucky and warmer than average temperatures overall.

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

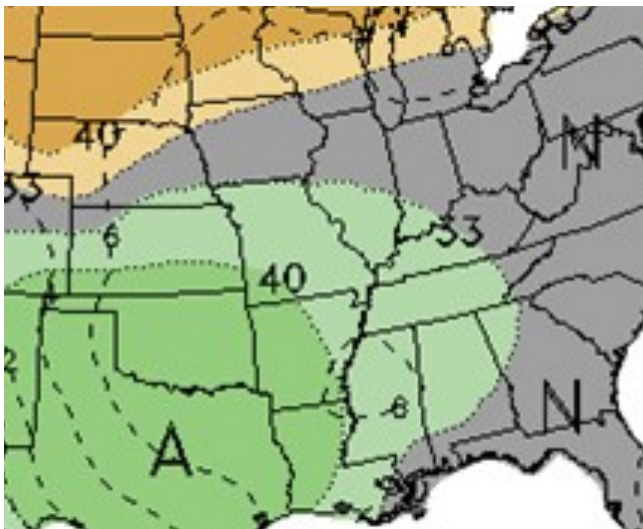
Nursery Crops Extension & Research Team

Winston Dunwell
Extension Professor
270.365.7541 x209

Joshua Kight
Extension Associate
859.257.0037

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

Joshua Knight, Senior Extension
Associate & Managing Editor



June 02-09, 2021 Precipitation Probability
Image: NOAA Climate.gov, 25 MAY 2021

- Anthracnose Diseases on Shade Trees
- How to Prevent Tick Bites
- It's a Farewell, Not a Goodbye

Anthracnose Diseases on Shade Trees

Nicole Ward Gauthier, Extension Professor, Plant Pathology
Kimberly Leonberger, Extension Associate, Plant Pathology

This spring has been cool and wet, leading to slow emergence of leaves on many shade trees. This combination of favorable weather conditions and slow leaf maturity created ideal conditions for development of anthracnose disease on several common shade trees.

The term anthracnose refers to the dark blotching (necrotic) symptom common to these diseases. When expanding leaves are affected, leaf distortion frequently results (Figure 1). Defoliation (leaf drop) often occurs during severe infections. The disease is generally not fatal, and a new flush of foliar growth immediately follows defoliation on some tree species. Causal fungi may also infect twigs and branches resulting in cankers that girdle stems (Figure 2).

Symptoms

The fungal pathogens that cause anthracnose diseases are quite host-specific, meaning that the anthracnose pathogen on oak will not infect ash, etc. Symptom appearance and severity differ with each host and with climatic conditions.

Ash anthracnose: Common symptoms include brown blotches along leaf edges. Leaf drop often results, and then new leaves soon emerge. Causal fungus: *Discula umbrinella*.

Maple anthracnose: Symptoms begin as leaf spots and may progress into shoot blight and shoot cankers. Leaf spots with brown, somewhat angular symptoms may be confused with tar spot (spots are round and black). Symptom development and susceptibility vary with tree species, but lesions often follow veins. Causal fungi: *Discula* sp. and *Kabatiella apocrypta*

Oak anthracnose: Not commonly observed in Kentucky. Irregular brown spots develop on leaf tips and along veins. Causal fungus: *Apiognomonia quercina*.

Sycamore anthracnose: Young, expanding leaves develop irregular dark, necrotic blotching centered along leaf veins or edges. These dark blotches may turn tan-colored as the diseased areas of leaves dry out. Blighting of twigs or shoots may follow. Trees produce new foliage rather quickly, but affected branches may remain crooked (lateral shoots become dominant when terminals are killed). Also affects London plane tree. Causal fungus: *Apiognomonia veneta*.



Figure 1. Symptoms of anthracnose on shade trees include dark blotches and leaf distortion. (Photo: Nicole Ward Gauthier, University of Kentucky)



Figure 2. The fungal pathogens that cause anthracnose may also infect twigs and branches. Resulting cankers girdle affected branches. (Photo: John Hartman, University of Kentucky)

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Management

For most trees, anthracnose disease is not lethal. However, repeated defoliation can be stressful to trees. Additionally, persistent rains and disease spread can lead to infection of twigs and branches. Good cultural practices are important to reduce disease:

- Select a planting site with a sunny eastern exposure to promote rapid foliage drying early in the day.
- Rake and destroy fallen leaves, as they can be a source of inoculum (fungal spores). Do not compost.
- Remove dead twigs and branches, as fungi can overwinter in dead wood.
- Reduce plant stress when possible.
- Avoid wounding, such as bumping with mowing equipment and making jagged pruning cuts.
- Maintain mulch 2 to 3 inches thick over the root zone and beyond the drip line (not against the trunk) to help maintain soil moisture and to protect trees from lawnmower injury.
- Protect trees from drought. Water at least once a week during hot, dry months using soakers or drip irrigation. Avoid overhead sprinklers; wet foliage favors sporulation and infection.
- Diagnose and treat insect and disease problems as soon as possible.
- Fungicides are often not recommended. They can be costly and it is difficult to effectively cover large trees. Commercial nurseries, on the other hand, should protect trees with fungicides.

Resources

- Shade Tree Anthracnose (PPFS-OR-W-23)
http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext_files/PPFShtml/PPFS-OR-W-23.pdf
- Landscape Sanitation (PPFS-GEN-04)
http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext_files/PPFShtml/PPFS-GEN-04.pdf
- Considerations for Diagnosis of Ornamentals in the Landscape (PPFS-GEN-15)
http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext_files/PPFShtml/PPFS-GEN-15.pdf
- Woody Plant Disease Management Guide for Nurseries and Landscapes (ID-88)
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id88/id88.pdf>

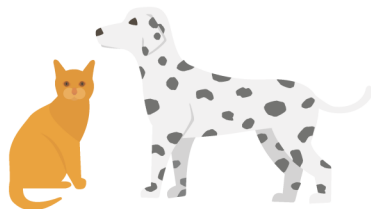
HOW TO PREVENT TICK BITES

Ticks are disease vectors that can negatively impact human health. Luckily, with some common sense approaches you can keep yourself safe from these tiny vampires.



Be aware of tick habitat

Ticks like overgrown areas. Some prefer woodlands while others like open spaces. If grass or shrubs reach about knee high, ticks may be there.



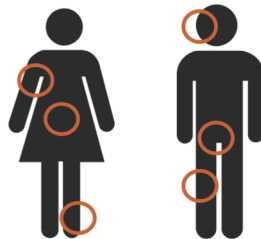
Protect your pets

If your pets go outdoors, provide them with tick prevention medicine to keep ticks from hitchhiking on your furry friend.



Wear protective clothing

Pants and long sleeves block ticks from your skin. You can also treat clothes with permethrin to kill ticks. Do not apply permethrin to skin though.



Perform regular tick checks

Check hair, ears, arms, belly button, groin, and legs.



Use an insect repellent

Skin based repellents like DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus help repel mosquitoes and ticks. They don't last forever though!



Remove ticks safely

Pull ticks out of your skin with tweezers. Do not apply alcohol or fire to tick, this can cause the tick to puke in you!



It's a Farewell, not a Goodbye

Josh Kight, Extension Associate, Nursery Crops

For those that do not yet know, I have taken a position with Bailey Nursery INC as a Sales Representative. The decision for me to leave Nursery Crops Extension was difficult. There were many sleepless nights going over the pros and cons.

My territory will be Kentucky, southwest Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Like the title of the article says, this is farewell not goodbye. I will continue to be active with the Kentucky and Nursery Landscape Association and the Kentucky Horticulture Council. I will see you all down the road.

The good news is that Dr. Mark Williams—head of the University of Kentucky Horticulture Department—understands the value of this position and is dedicated to filling it quickly and continuing to provide support to the nursery and landscape industry. I can assure you that the hiring committee will find a qualified candidate who will hit the ground running.

So, in closing, I want to say **THANK YOU** to all who have helped me along the way while working to support the green industry of Kentucky. I have learned a great deal from all the growers, and I believe that we have the best nursery personnel in the world. I will see you down the road.

Sincerely

Josh Kight



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!](#)

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/>

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