

KENTUCKY NURSERY BULLETIN

UK NURSERY CROPS TEAM

JANUARY 2022

Cooler/Drier Than Average End of January, Cooler/Wetter Than Average Start to February

While the last weeks of 2021 were remarkably warmer than average for us in the Commonwealth, the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an above average chance of cooler and drier weather for last weeks of January. This pattern of cooler and drier than average conditions is expected to affect much of the eastern U.S.

The experimental outlooks for the first weeks of February predict similarly cooler-than-average conditions. These same predictions are calling for above average rates of precipitation as we move from late January into the first weeks of February.

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



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

NURSERY CROPS EXTENSION & RESEARCH

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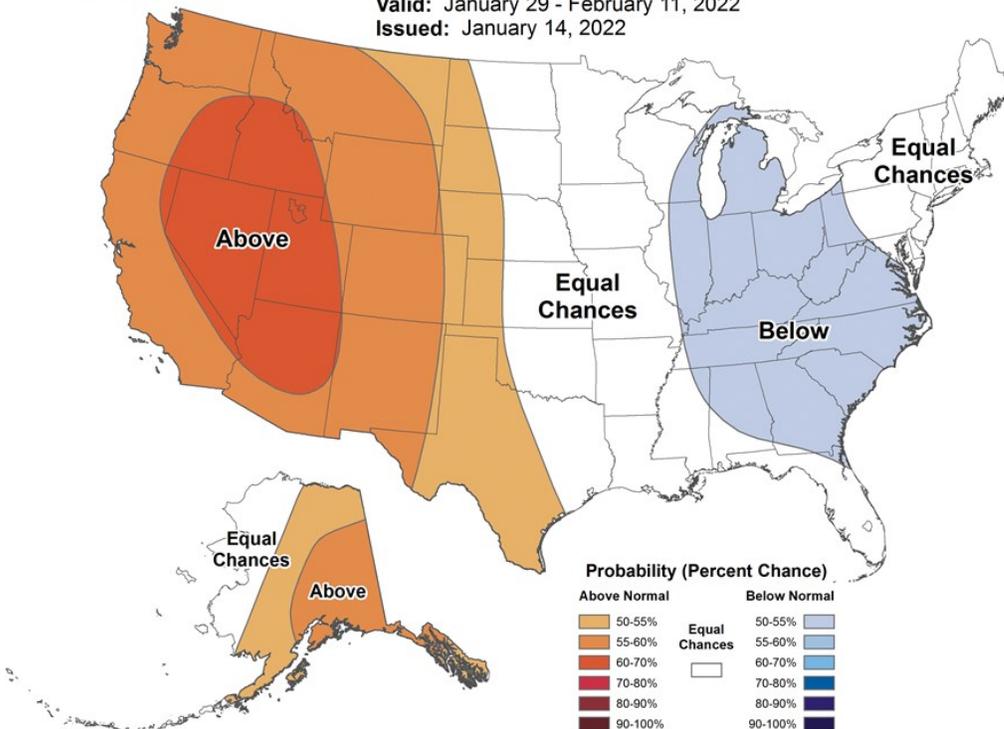
Joshua Knight, Senior Extension
Associate & Managing Editor

- Nursery Crops Extension Associate Hired
- Plant Growth Regulator Guide for Herbaceous Perennials Update



Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook

Valid: January 29 - February 11, 2022
Issued: January 14, 2022



Precipitation Probability, DEC 2021 - FEB 2022

Image: NOAA Climate.gov, 18 NOV 2021

Nursery Crops Extension Associate Hired

Tara Watkins, Extension Associate, Nursery Crops

Tara Watkins joined the UK Extension team as the new Nursery Crops Extension Associate with the UK Department of Horticulture in January 2022. Tara's areas of expertise include ornamental horticulture, plant pathology diagnostics and disease management, as well as the development and delivery of educational programming for both growers and the public. Starting out, Tara will be assessing the current needs of the nursery crops industry in an effort to best serve Kentucky's growers and farmers. She will be developing online educational resources, designing and delivering virtual and in-person programming and workshops for growers, conducting on-farm site visits and consults, and addressing nursery crop-related issues affecting Kentucky's nursery crops.

A native of central Kentucky, Tara attended Western Kentucky University where she received dual B.S. degrees in Biochemistry and Agriculture (emphasis in Plant and Soil Sciences). During her undergraduate studies, she interned with UK at UKREC in Princeton where she fell in love with Plant Pathology in the Plant Diagnostics lab. After graduating from WKU, Tara moved to Michigan where she attended Michigan State University and earned her M.S. degree in Plant Pathology in Dec 2021. Tara recently moved back to her hometown of Frankfort where she and her significant other reside on their farm, grow a small vegetable garden and a wide variety of cut flowers, and tend to their cattle and other animals. Tara is excited to get to know and serve those involved in the nursery crop industry of the great Bluegrass State!

Tara's work is funded by the Kentucky Horticulture Council through a grant from the Kentucky Agriculture Development Fund. You can reach her at tara.watkins@uky.edu or at (859) 257-0037.



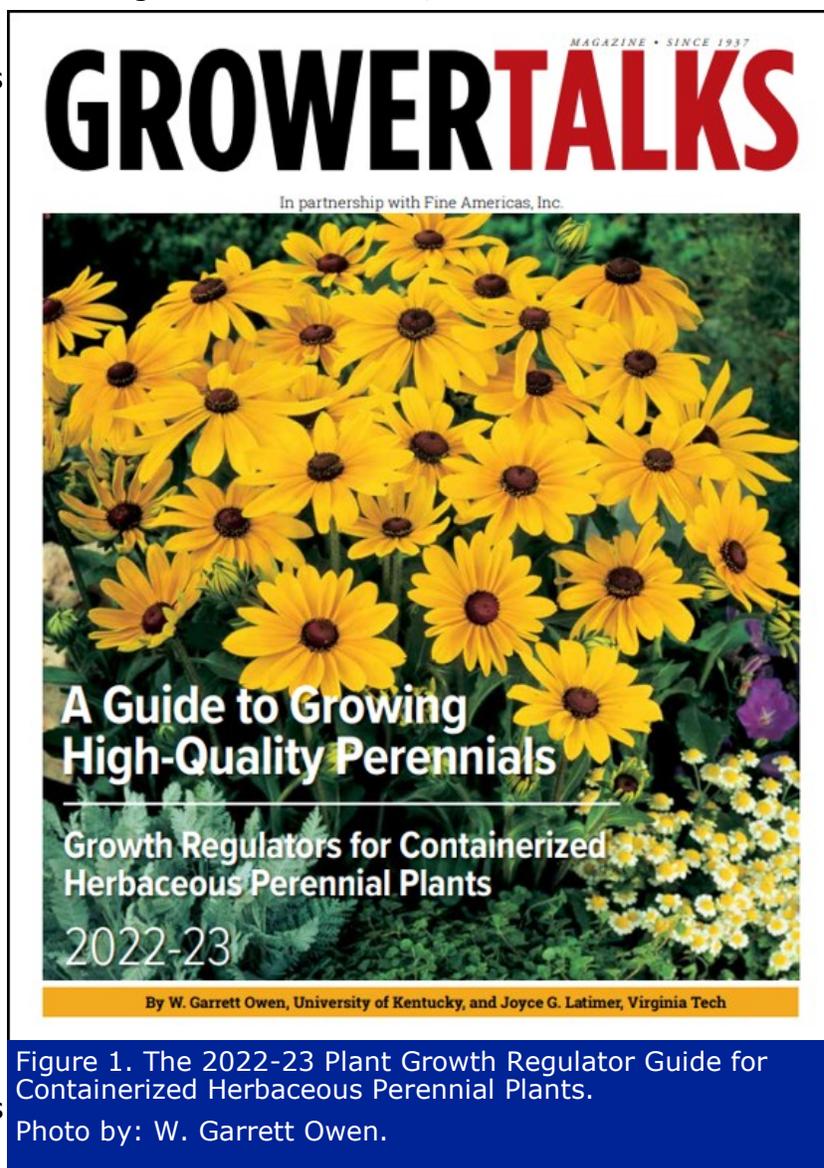
Plant Growth Regulator Guide for Herbaceous Perennials Update

Dr. W. Garret Owen, Extension Professor, Greenhouse and Controlled-Environments

Containerized herbaceous flowering perennials can be challenging to produce, especially when it comes to controlling plant growth. The general rule of thumb is to produce a containerized plant that is 1.5 times the height of the container, but this of course varies by species, container size, and market. Additionally, some species do not branch freely and require pruning. Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are excellent tools that can assist growers with enhancing quality of their containerized plants such as controlling plant growth and/or induce branching without wounding the plant. If you're interested in PGRs and don't know where to start or if you currently use them now, but want learn more about recent research then you should refer to the new [2022-23 Plant Growth Regulator Guide for Containerized Herbaceous Perennial Plants](#) (Fig. 1). The 76-page guide, co-authored by Dr. Garrett Owen of the University of Kentucky Horticulture Department, is now available [online](#). Herbaceous perennial growers will find updates on cutting-edge PGRs which

consists of research performed by members of the University of Kentucky Controlled-Environment Horticulture research unit (Owen Lab), crop reports, and other helpful resources such as the [2021-22 Plant Growth Regulators for Annuals](#) and the [PGRMix Master](#). The guide is free and a great educational resource to help produce high-quality marketable herbaceous perennials.

Appreciation is expressed to Fine Americas, Inc. for sponsoring this publication.



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.

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