



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

# Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team

End of February 2021

## TBD

In an average year (from 1980-2010), March has typical highs in the upper 50s and lows in the middle 30s across the Commonwealth. With last week's ice and snow still in our rearview mirror, the warmer than average temperatures predicted in March are likely welcome for those on the roads and otherwise out of doors. That said, averages do not tell us of short term, localized temperature swings so it is important to stay vigilant for extreme events.

What may be less welcome is the continuing trend of wetter than average conditions across Kentucky and the region in general. Above average chances of higher than normal rates of precipitation are forecast to extend through the month. Fields may remain saturated for much of March with an increased potential for localized flooding.

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



March 03-09, 2021 Precipitation Probability  
Image: NOAA Climate.gov, 23 FEB 2021

## Nursery Crops Extension & Research Team

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Joshua Knight, Senior Extension  
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• **New KY Cut Flower  
Virtual Short Course  
Just Announced!**

• **KY MESONET**

# New KY Cut Flower Virtual Short Course Just Announced!

*Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture*  
*Kristin Hildabrand, Horticulture Extension Agent, Warren County*

Cut flower production is becoming a fast, growing horticulture enterprise in Kentucky with more than 70 operations being identified across the state. To assist commercial cut flower growers throughout the commonwealth, a Cut Flower Production Short Course will feature a series of virtual classes offered via Zoom to give new interested growers more insight into Kentucky cut flower production. Sessions will be offered seasonally during the 2021 season and will feature information on perennial cut flowers best suited for Kentucky, virtual farm tours, post-harvesting techniques, growing in structures such as high and low tunnels, and winter integrated pest management strategies.



Source:  
Wild Roots Farmer Florist

Date	Topic
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kentucky Perennials for Cuts
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Virtual Farm Tour and Post-Harvest
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Growing in Structures
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Winter Integrated Pest Management

All classes will be held on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30pm Eastern Time/ 5:30pm Central Time and last 1 hour. The Cut Flower Short-Course is free and open to the public. Since the meeting will be hosted using Zoom, access to a computer with broadband internet capability will be necessary to attend.

The first program for the Cut Flower Virtual Short Course will kick off on **Monday, March 22nd** with a discussion over Perennial Cut Flowers for Kentucky. The speaker for the evening will be Shari Dutton from the University of Kentucky Horticulture Department. She will talk on specific perennials that will perform best as cut flowers in Kentucky's climate. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, so register by using this QR Code (Right) OR by clicking on this meeting link:



<https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcOGgpjMtHN3mC5boUU37KNFXv0gLtlqu>.

Other class details will be released later in 2021! For more information or questions related to the Cut Flower Virtual Short Course, feel free to contact the organizers Alexis Sheffield, Boyle County HORT Agent, at ([alexis.amorese@uky.edu](mailto:alexis.amorese@uky.edu)) or Kristin Hildabrand, Warren County HORT Agent, at ([kristin.goodin@uky.edu](mailto:kristin.goodin@uky.edu)).

# Kentucky MESONET: A Free Online Tool to Monitor Weather and Climate Conditions

The Kentucky MESONET is a series of automated weather and climate stations that are located throughout the state of Kentucky. These sites monitor weather conditions including air temperature, soil temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed, wind direction, and dew point.

Also, offered through the MESONET is a monthly summary that list important weather information that are critical making decisions on insect and disease pressure management. The information on infographic are in the areas of

Day	Date	Temperature (°F)				Degree Days		Humidity (%)		Precip (inch)	Wind Speed (mph) and Direction				Solar (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )
		Max	Min	Avg	Avg Dwpt	HDD	CDD	Max	Min		Res Dir	Res Spd.	Avg Spd.	Max 3-sec	
SAT	1	42.8	36.2	39.5	35.8	25	0	100	71	0.01	W	3.5	4.9	19.9	3.8
SUN	2	62.3	33.6	48	35	17	0	92	39	0	SW	9.2	9.6	26	14.1
MON	3	69.3	45.6	57.4	39.2	8	0	72	33	0	SSW	9.4	9.7	27	9.5
TUE	4	63.3	36.3	49.8	50.4	15	0	100	46	0.38	SW	4.8	10.2	39	3.1
WED	5	36.3	32.7	34.5	33.4	31	0	100	90	0.14	ENE	9.3	9.8	22.3	1.9
THU	6	35.4	29.5	32.4	32.3	33	0	100	89	0.02	NNW	4.9	5.8	17.9	1.4
FRI	7	33.6	26.8	30.2	25.2	35	0	98	66	0.05	W	6.6	8	19	6
SAT	8	37.3	28.2	32.8	28.5	32	0	100	68	0.06	SW	5.1	6.6	18.6	4.6

temperatures both minimum and maximum, degree days, humidity, precipitation and wind speeds. Below is an example of a table from the Kentucky MESONET

Using the MESONET allows the user to go back and compare past data to current climate data. This tool is available for free online and is very useful in making decisions about the day to day operations. The best way for a manager to become acquainted with the MESONET is to simple visit the website and start becoming



familiar with the features of the website <http://www.kymesonet.org/>

**The MESONET is developed and maintained by the Kentucky Climate Center at Western Kentucky University to serve diverse needs in communities across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.**

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

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