



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team

End of October 2020

November Outlook: Drier than Average Across KY

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center shows a high probability for consistently drier than average conditions throughout November for the commonwealth, as well as the eastern half of the continental U.S. generally.

The predictions for temperature are more complex. The first week of November has a higher probability of lower than average temperatures for Kentucky (and the eastern US). This prediction shifts moving into the second week, where the probability is above average for higher than average temperatures for the entire country. Overall for November, the temperatures are expected to be higher than average, in general.

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

Nursery Crops Extension & Research Team

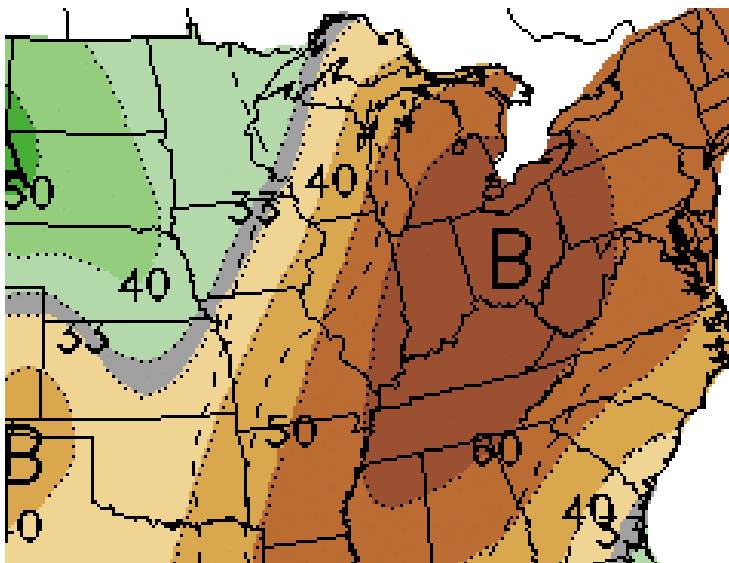
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NOV 4—8, Precipitation Probability
Image: NOAA Climate.gov, 29 OCT 2020

- **Tree Wounds — Invitations to Wood Decay Fungi**
- **Working Safely and Staying Healthy**

Tree Wounds – Invitations to Wood Decay Fungi

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

Wood decay leads to loss of tree vigor and vitality, resulting in decline, dieback, and structural failure. Wounds play an important part in this process since they are the primary point of entry for wood decay pathogens. While other factors may also result in decline and dieback, the presence of wounds and/or outward signs of pathogens provides confirmation that wood decay is an underlying problem. Wounds and wood decay reduce the ability of trees to support themselves.

Wounds may result from numerous sources such as lawn equipment (Figure 1), pruning, vehicles, herbicides, insects, wildlife, weather, or objects that girdle or embed in trunks or branches (Figure 2). Once stress or damage from wounds occurs, fungal decay



Figure 1. Lawn equipment damage to base of tree

Photo: Cheryl Kaiser, UK



Figure 2. Wire from stakes and fences creates wounds and can lead to girdling.

Photo: Nicole Ward Gauthier, UK

causes, prevention, and treatment, review the publication *Tree Wounds – Invitations to Wood Decay Fungi* ([PPFS-OR-W-01](#))

Additional Information

Tree Wounds – Invitations to Wood Decay Fungi ([PPFS-OR-W-01](#))

Plant Pathology Publications ([Website](#))

pathogens may enter plants to cause further damage. During rainy seasons and moderate temperatures, many wood decay fungi produce visible reproductive structures, such as shelf-like fungal bodies (Figure 3) or mushrooms.

For more information on tree wounds and related disease problems, including symptoms,



Figure 3. When weather conditions are favorable, the shelf-like fungal fruiting structures of some wood decay pathogens may be visible.

Photo: Joseph O Brien, USFS

Working Safely and Staying Healthy

Joshua Kight, Extension Associate, Nursery Crops

Fall is here and digging is ramping up. Getting the plants out of the field and on to trucks for delivery is top priority. During this busy time, it is important that managers and staff not get complacent on safety. Management should always make safety a top priority.

There are some things that are simple to install into the workday. Before work starts each morning, gather the crew and discuss the plan of the day for work to be completed. Go over any potential safety concerns, and make sure that the crew is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. During the day, remember to check up on crews and monitor overall well-

-being of personnel. Check to ensure that plenty of liquids are being consumed, and that employees are taking breaks and not pushing too hard. Employers should also be following the Safer at Home work guidelines for COVID-19. For 2020 and the foreseeable future, it is especially important to monitor the health of staff; if

someone feels sick, they should not come to work. If someone tests positive for COVID-19, everyone that has been in direct contact with that person should self-quarantine and be tested as per Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

In a nursery setting, things are fast-paced, tasks are always

behind schedule, and there never seems to be enough time in the day, especially with weather delays. It is imperative that managers implement health and safety meetings into the workday and keep them consistent. Remember, the work is hard enough with a healthy staff; just think how hard it would be with staff that are out from injuries and sickness that could have been prevented by implementing a safety routine at the start of work that would take only 15 minutes.



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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