



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

# Kentucky Nursery LISTSERV Bulletin

University of Kentucky Nursery Crops Team

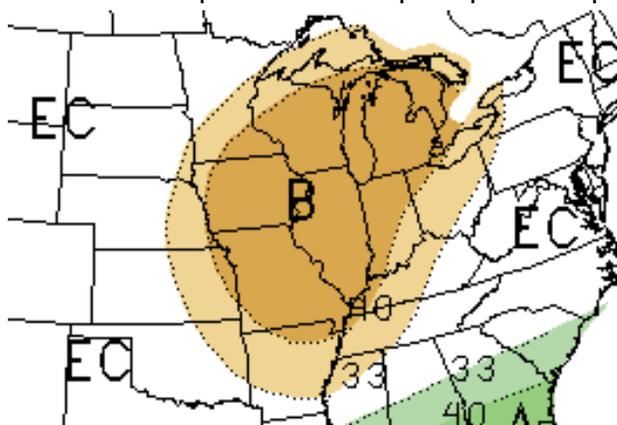
End of February 2020

## Warm and Wet Start to March May Not Last

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting above average temperatures and precipitation probability for the first week of March across most of the country, including the Commonwealth. This pattern will not hold as we move further into March. For the month of March overall, cooler than average temperatures are forecast for the entire region. In addition, below average probability of precipitation is expected for the central and western parts of Kentucky as part of a larger pattern in the Midwestern U.S. for the month of March, with wetter weather predicted for the deep south and Florida.

It is important to keep in mind that averages like this forecast over an entire month leaves open the possibility of high variability during that time. While the month of March may be cooler than average, overall, this leaves open the possibility of short term occurrences of warmer weather.

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



March 2020, Precipitation Probability  
Image: NOAA Climate.gov, 20 FEB 2020

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• **Kentucky MESONET: A  
Free Tool to Monitor  
Weather Conditions**

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

*Joshua Kight, Extension Associate, Nursery Crops*

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

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

Table Source: KY 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!](#)

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