



Good for Kissing . . . Bad for Trees

Mistletoe is a parasite that can cause considerable damage to trees. It is commonly found in Cedar Elm, Bois d' Arc and Hackberry trees, but it can affect other types of trees as well.

- **The damage it causes is the result of its roots growing into and plugging the Vascular System**, causing a bulging and distortion of the limbs on which the Mistletoe is attached. The strength and vitality of the limbs and the tree can be compromised if this parasite is allowed to go unchecked.
- **Mistletoe is primarily spread by birds.** It is much more likely to develop in a tree that is under stress than it is in a healthy, vigorous tree. Once a tree has developed Mistletoe, the spreading or growth of the parasite seems to accelerate. The heavier the infestation, the quicker it spreads.
- **Controlling this parasite involves removing it from the tree** it is affecting and taking measures to improve the tree's overall health and vigor (Sick Tree Treatment). It is best to remove the entire limb from which the Mistletoe grows. If the Mistletoe is attached to the trunk or a large limb of the tree, we will only remove the existing growth of the Mistletoe in order to slow any future growth.
- **The most efficient time of year to remove Mistletoe is during the dormant season**, when trees are without leaves. The overall health of the tree, weather conditions, amount of mistletoe in the surrounding area and quality of the previous Mistletoe removal service are all factors that can determine how often the Mistletoe infestation needs to be addressed.
- **Currently, Moore Tree Care does not recommend using chemical products labeled for Mistletoe control for a few reasons.**
 - Their effectiveness is questionable
 - Chemicals can be hazardous
 - They can have negative effects on trees and other plant materials to which they are applied.
- **The materials used in these products are anti-fruiting agents** and will not only affect the Mistletoe, but the desirable plant materials to which it has contact as well. Hopefully, there will be a spray product that is both safe and effective in the future.
- **Physical removal is Moore Tree Care's only recommended control at this time.**