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Blue mold arrives in Nicholas County

**By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff**
CARLISLE — An airborne invader from south Texas entered Nicholas County and the rest of Central Kentucky last week.

Blue mold, annual pest of Kentucky's burley tobacco farmers, has made its appearance in Nicholas County.

"We've known it was coming for three months," said Mike Phillips, Nicholas County Agricultural Extension Agent.

"Three to four weeks ago the United States Department of Agriculture issued a blue mold warning for Kentucky,"

Phillips said.

"A storm out of Texas brought the blue mold spore to the Kentucky area," Phillips added.

The blue mold spore travels on wind currents, Phillips noted, and moves from Texas in storm systems. The mold develops on wild tobacco plants in South Texas, Phillips said.

Blue mold has the ability to create problems for area farmers. The agricultural extension office estimates only 25 percent of area farmers used ridomil, the only effective chemical in stopping blue mold, on their crops this year.

Blue Mold causes damage; is costing farmers millions

**By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff**
CARLISLE — Blue mold is a damaging tobacco disease which in the past, according to the county extension office, has reduced the crop yield by millions of pounds. This crop loss has in turn cost the burley tobacco farmers millions of dollars.

This destructive plant disease is a tropical disease, originating in the warm Gulf Coast area of South Texas. It requires hot, humid weather to survive. Mike Phillips, the Nicholas County Agricultural Extension Agent, said the past week has been perfect for the formation of blue mold in Nicholas County.

"The triangle has been completed," Phillips said. "The weather has been hot, humid and cloudy."

Blue mold moves with weather patterns and had been reported in the Central Kentucky counties of Scott, Jessamine and Fayette for three weeks. Reports of blue mold in Nicholas County began the weekend of 28-29 July, according to Phillips.

Blue mold is similar to bread mold and other molds. It appears as brown spots on the top of the tobacco leaf. If the leaf is turned over to reveal the underside, a bluish-gray mold directly under the brown spots becomes visible.

Phillips said there are problem spots farmers should watch over the next few weeks.

The most vulnerable areas are shaded areas and crops in bottoms next to streams and creeks. These areas provide heat, moisture and blocks the sunlight, giving the blue mold an ideal breeding ground.

Phillips noted blue mold is incapable of surviving in the direct, intense sunlight. This is the reason why crops are often affected along the borders of the field and not throughout the entire field.

"The effects of blue mold can be disastrous to the tobacco farmer. It is basically a wet disease which kills by drying

the leaf out. The brown spots expand and suck the moisture out of the leaf, decreasing the weight and quality significantly and in many cases destroying the leaf and plant totally.

Farmers can take measures against blue mold, but the best measure must be taken at the beginning of the season.

Ridomil, a chemical produced by Ciba-Geigy, will prevent blue mold. For most farmers, however, the cost is prohibitive.

"Ridomil runs about \$120 a gallon," Phillips said, "and the guidelines call for three quarts to an acre."

If a farmer has discovered blue mold in his tobacco, Phillips stressed there are no chemical remedies at this stage.

Most of the blue mold has been discovered on mature plants, usually while the farmer was topping his tobacco, Phillips said.

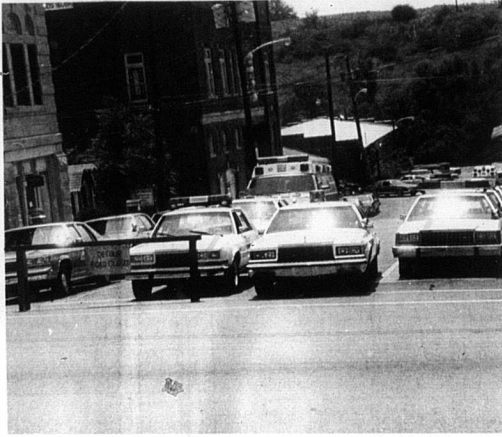
Phillips and the University of Kentucky Extension Service stress avoiding improper home treatments for blue mold.

"There's a rumor that bleach is effective on blue mold," Phillips said, "it does nothing to it. The only thing it does is leave a chlorine residue on the tobacco and this is not liked by the tobacco companies."

There are two actions farmers may take to combat blue mold, Phillips said. One is to take less time between topping and cutting, giving the disease less time to spread on mature plants.

A second option available to farmers is to leave the tobacco in the field a few extra days. The extra will help destroy the blue mold, since it cannot survive in the direct sunlight.

The weather over the next few weeks will determine the extent of blue mold damage in Nicholas County. "It's really too early to tell," Phillips noted. "The next couple of weeks are the ones we have to watch."



The Carlisle Mercury/Hank Bond Photo

Bidding farewell

Law enforcement officers from across Kentucky, along with friends and relatives gathered together last Thursday to bid farewell to Carlisle Police Chief Allen Earlywine.

Blue Licks Festival August 18-19

**By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff**
BLUE LICKS — A festival will be held August 18 and 19 at the Blue Licks State Park in Robertson County.

The Blue Licks Celebration will include a variety of events, highlighted by a quilt show, a covered bridge pictorial exhibit and a battle reenactment.

Sam Devine, Park Director at Blue Licks, encourages everyone to attend the celebration and noted nearly all events are free. The only charges during the celebration are for the museum and the swimming pool.

The Blue Licks Commemorative Commission will sponsor the quilt show. It will be held in the lower level of the Worthington Center and will have a pre-1940 category and an after 1940 category.

The Worthington Center will also host an arts and crafts show. This show will start at 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

The museum will host a covered bridge exhibit on Saturday. Jeff Rogers of Corinth, Kentucky, will show his photographs of 12 covered bridges still existing in Kentucky and these are included in his exhibit.

The Blue Licks Celebration will also include concerts by folk singers and clogging performances by the Pride of America dance group.

One concert will be given by The WorkingClass Heroes, a folk music group composed of Russians and Americans. The group is currently on a tour of the United States.

A storytelling and pottery demonstration will be held

Saturday night. Albert Bauman, a potter and storyteller from Springfield, Kentucky, will conduct this program.

The battle reenactment will be held on both days. It is conducted by the 1st American Regiment, a Revolutionary War reenactment group from Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition, the 1st American Regiment will have a bivouac site set up to demonstrate the pioneers' cooking methods and living conditions. Reenactment times are three o'clock Saturday and 2:15 Sunday afternoon.

Sunday will include a morning worship service at 10 o'clock and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Blue Licks Monument at one o'clock in the afternoon.

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Daniel Boone, a colonel in the Kentucky militia, had argued against the pursuit. At the Licking River, he warned the Kentuckians not to cross. The pioneer militia disregarded the advice of Boone and crossed the river. They advanced into a prepared ambush and sustained a bitter defeat.

Sixty Kentucky pioneers lost their lives at Blue Licks and seven men were captured.

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... was site of last battle

**By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff**
BLUE LICKS — The last battle of the American Revolution took place on the steep, wooded hills just north of the Licking River.

The battle was named after the Blue Licks, a salt lick near the battle site.

The battle was the result of an earlier battle waged at Bryan's Station, near present-day Lexington. An Indian force had attacked the Kentucky outpost and had been repulsed. The pioneer militia then pursued the fleeing Indians and were in turn ambushed.

The Indian force was actually a composite force of Indians, British Army regulars and a few American frontiersmen, according to The Encyclopedia of Military History. The force numbered around 240, was commanded by a British officer, Captain Caldwell, and included the notorious American traitor, Simon Girty.

Captain Caldwell's force attacked Bryan Station on August 14, 1782. The next day Caldwell broke off the attack.

The British captain had learned of American reinforcements arriving from Ft. Boonesborough, Ft. Harrod and other forts in the vicinity.

The pioneer force decided to pursue the British and Indi-

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The Allen Earlywine Memorial Fund has been established to provide an opportunity for you to express your appreciation for this man by making a cash contribution to benefit his wife and children.

Please make contributions payable to:
Chief Allen Earlywine Memorial Fund
c/o Deposit Bank - 102 Main Street
Carlisle, KY 40311

A Friend of the Family, Dr. Robert Sparks, Fund Organizer
110 Locust St., Carlisle, KY 40311