

# ASK A GREEN THUMB



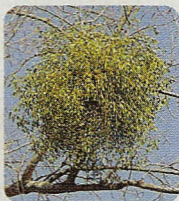
MISTLETOE IS VERY common and naturally occurs in our desert trees. It's actually a parasite spread by native birds, and can negatively impact the health and beauty of the host tree. You can remove mistletoe by cutting it away from tree branches or trunks. Entire tree branches

may need to be removed, especially if the mistletoe infestation has made them brittle. Consider carefully before removing prominent or multiple tree branches, as this could ruin the tree's natural beauty.

Removing mistletoe is difficult, because it has a tendency to grow back from within the tree and birds are continually spreading new seeds. Not only do birds spread seeds, but mistletoe berries are an important food source for them as well. So, it's okay to have a little mistletoe in your landscape, as long as you can control it by occasionally removing or cutting it back. A tree with one or two small clumps of mistletoe can be healthy and beautiful—and attract birds to your yard.

**How do I remove mistletoe that seems to be choking out other plants?**

**-JEAN GOODRICH**



.....  
» *Paul Connolly, APLD, Certified Landscape Designer, Sundrea Design Studio, 302-7441, [www.sundreadesignstudio.com](http://www.sundreadesignstudio.com)*