



Flowers pollinated by small flies and if fertilised develop into berries which ripen by the following Feb/March.

Planting mistletoe berries  
Downe Orchard Feb 2006.



Germinating mistletoe:  
Phase 1 (non parasitic)  
Spring 2006 (Downe Bank).



*Above: Downe Orchard*



Male flowers  
(March 2006)



Female flowers  
(March 2006)

# THE MISTLETOE LIFE CYCLE

Germinating mistletoe:  
Phase 1 (non parasitic)  
Feb 2007. The seed has  
extended green shoots  
which bend towards  
the host, then flatten  
to form sucker-shaped  
holdfast.

*Below: Downe Bank*



Then 4, 8, 16 leaves till you have a mature plant bearing flowers.

*Below: On lime, Down House Feb 2007*



Once the holdfast is established the parasitic phase begins. The seedling begins to penetrate the host tissue stimulating the growth of a 'haustorium' - the tissue which connects the mistletoe with its host.

Two leaves develop

