

Sign In Register Now Subscribe Mobile Conversations Today's Paper

Going Out Gu

POLITICS OPINIONS LOCAL SPORTS National World Business Investigations Li

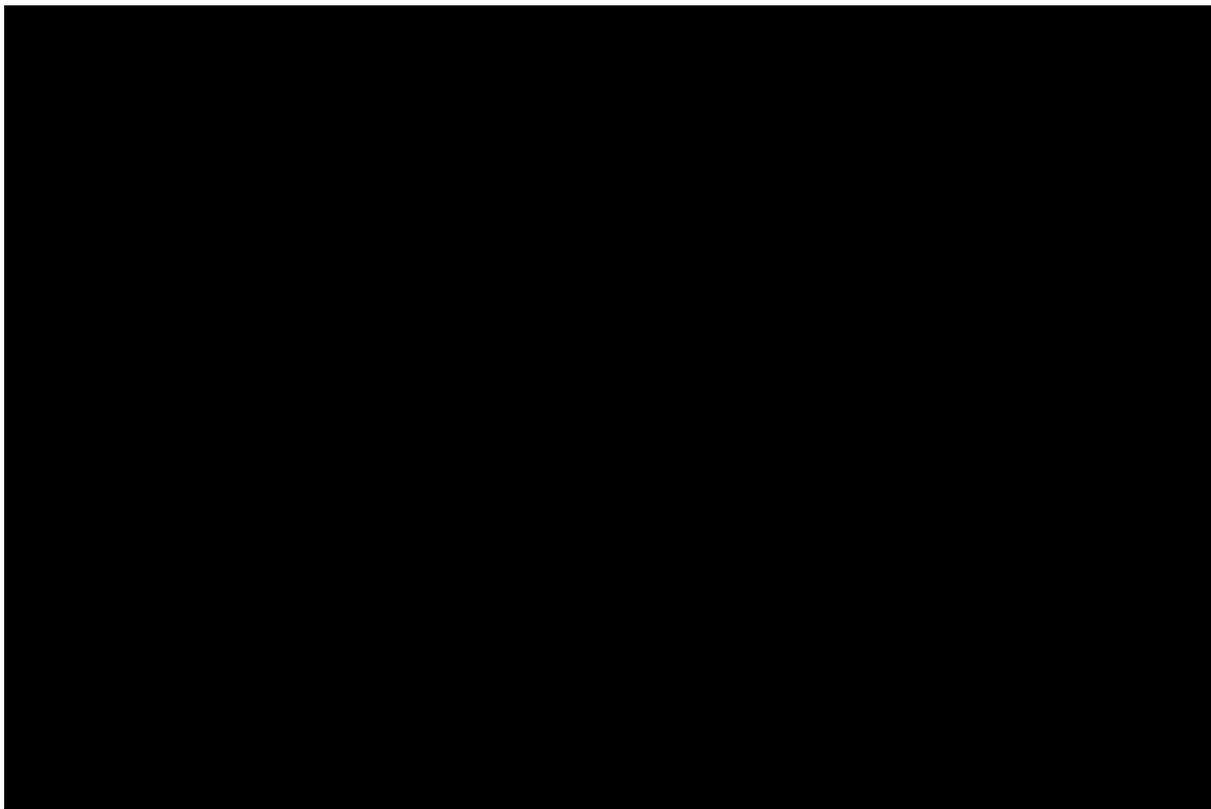
Corrections Energy & Environment Health & Science Higher Education National Security On Faith

In the News Herb Kohl Flooding FCC Harmon Killebrew India election Bryce Harper

[Pollen Count](#) Get Today's Forecast For Outdoor Allergies In Your Area ZYRTEC.com

[Pollen Count](#) Find Relief From Your Allergies Find an Allergist in Your Zip Code ACAAI.org

Allergy season progresses with a punch to the nose as rainfall boosts pollen, mold



CAPTION FULLSCREEN

Print | E-mail | Reprints

Th

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Text Size

By Associated Press, Updated: Friday, May 13, 6:41 AM

There may be a dusting of truth to allergy sufferers' complaints that this season is, well, a bigger headache than years past.

Heavy snow and rain in some parts of the country have nourished a profusion of tree pollen, while a sudden shift to warm, sunny weather has made its release more robust. Add in the wind, and the suffering skyrockets.

1 **Comments**
Weigh In Corrections?

0

Send

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend

Pollen Count

Get Today's Forecast For Outdoor Allergies In Your Area
ZYRTEC.com

Pollen Count

Find Relief From Your Allergies Find an Allergist in Your Zip Code
ACAAI.org

Warnings for a difficult season have come from allergy specialists from New York to Atlanta, Chicago to California.

“This past week has been one of the worst ever,” rasped Lynne Ritchie, 70, as she bought allergy medicine this week at a Manhattan drugstore.

Dr. Stanley Schwartz hears that from patients all the time — every year, in fact, he noted with a wry smile.

“Literally, every year is the worst year,” said Schwartz, chief of allergy and rheumatology for Kaleida Health and the University at Buffalo. “Now it may actually be, but when it’s there and you’re feeling it, you don’t remember what last year was like.”

April was a historic month for weather, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia all set records for the wettest April since 1895.

Pollen counts and allergy attacks vary widely from region to region, locality to locality and day to day, and no one entity tracks the full complexity of their ups and downs across the country. This year, though, signs really do point to a particularly prickly season.



Dr. Joseph Leija, the allergist who performs the Gottlieb Allergy Count for the Midwest, said last month that tree pollen was unseasonably high in Chicago and predicted “one of the worst allergy seasons ever.”

At Holy Name Medical Center in Hackensack, N.J., allergy director Dr. Theodore Falk told The Record newspaper that tree pollen “just exploded” last week because of a cool spring.

In Los Angeles, rain, a heat wave and the Santa Ana winds created an “allergy storm,” Dr. Jacob Offenberger said in the Los Angeles Daily News in February. Around the same time, unseasonable warmth had Dr. Kevin Schaffer of the Atlanta Allergy and Asthma Clinic describing this year’s pollen levels as “off the charts.”

A sampling from the National Allergy Bureau’s tracking website showed high pollen counts in several cities this week, including Albany and New York City, with their birch, oak and maple trees, and Oxford, Ala., where walnut, pine and willows are in bloom. The bureau is part of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

“It’s been a very bad season so far. ... A lot of people suffering,” said Dr. William Reisacher, director of the allergy center at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City.

“A lot of people who haven’t suffered in previous years have come in for the first time in several years with symptoms,” he said, noting that the Northeast’s sudden change from cold, snowy winter to warm spring has worsened the situation.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America lists Knoxville, Tenn; Louisville, Ky.; Charlotte, N.C.; Jackson, Miss.; and Chattanooga, Tenn.; as its “2011 spring allergy capitals.”

Continued 1 2 Next Page

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

+ SHARE

Send

0

Weigh In

[About Discussions, Badges](#)

[Discussion Policy](#)



LOG IN REGISTER + SHARE THIS DEBATE

You are not logged in. You must login or register with the Washington Post to comment or post. If you post before logging in, your comment will be saved while you are guided through the login process.

Type your comment here...



Limit 3000 characters (3000 characters remaining)

Post

Top Comments (0) **All Comments (1)**

Newest first Oldest first Most Recommended first

No Top Comments are available at the moment. [View all Comments.](#)

People who read this also read...

Diamond tiara belonging to what was once Britain's wealthiest woman to be auctioned in London

Police: 3 killed, 1 wounded in shooting at Northern Calif. home; suspected gunman among dead

Bin Laden's neighbors noticed unusual things at his secretive compound

S. California city bans coffeehouse nudity, gambling, as so-called lingerie cafes proliferate

John Beck as Redskins' starting quarterback would be quite a gamble

Slate V: Friday the 13th

Are there really more accidents on Friday the 13th?

In search of Paris' golden age of perversion.

Sponsored Links

Hot Stock Alert - OBJE

High Fashion Market Explosion! Emerging Label for 2011 - View Stock
www.ObsceneJeans.com

Breaking News: GTSO Stock

GTSO JV Looks to Ship New Rare Earths out of Mongolia Next Month!
www.RareEarthExporters.com

UTOG Oil Bursting its Seams

Fracking tech to unlock vast treasure of 7,000-acre Montana patch. Get in now.
www.AmericanEnergyReport.com

[Buy a link here](#)

To

Na

S

n

[

[

[

[

Po



Sponsored Links

Hot Stock Alert - OBJE

High Fashion Market Explosion! Emerging Label for 2011 - View Stock

www.ObsceneJeans.com

Breaking News: GTSO Stock

GTSO JV Looks to Ship New Rare Earths out of Mongolia Next Month!

www.RareEarthExporters.com

UTOG Oil Bursting its Seams

Fracking tech to unlock vast treasure of 7,000-acre Montana patch. Get in now.

www.AmericanEnergyReport.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Top Jobs

- Business Jobs
- Computer Jobs
- Construction Jobs
- Education Jobs
- Engineering Jobs
- Healthcare Jobs
- Legal Jobs
- Management Jobs
- Media Jobs
- Non-Profit Jobs
- Sales Jobs
- Science Jobs

Keyword

Location

PROVIDED BY [SimplyHired](#)

Featured Advertiser Links

Oil Spill, Mesothelioma Class Action, Femur Fracture, Navy Veterans, Asbestos News Center, Dross, Mesothelioma Symptoms

Gas Drilling, Metal on Metal Hip, Mesothelioma Treatment, Yaz, Asbestos cancer, Knee loosening

Looking to buy a home? Visit TWP Real Estate section for the latest open houses.

Make Your Vanguard Investing More Profitable - Free Research Report Reveals Best & Worst Funds

National Links

Corrections	Energy & Environment	On Leadership	Blogs & Colour
Health & Science	Higher Education	Special Reports	
National Security	On Faith		

Ways you can get us

[Mobile](#)
[Apps](#)
[Widgets](#)
[Post Store](#)
[Photo Store](#)
[Washington Post Live](#)

[Podcasts](#)
[Newsletter & alerts](#)
[RSS](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

The Washington Post

[About Us](#)
[Work for us](#)
[Community Relations](#)
[PostPoints](#)
[Corrections/Suggestions](#)
[Archive](#)
[Contact the Ombudsman](#)

Web site

[Make us your](#)

Newspaper

[Subscribe](#)
[Home delivery](#)
[e-Replica](#)

Partners