

Climate change extends allergy season

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Not everyone in the world looks forward to the joys of spring. While many people take delight in observing the glory of newly-formed buds revealing their delicate blossoms, others dread this annual phenomenon. That's because

blooming plants bring seasonal allergies like hay fever. The National Phenology Network (NPN) in the USA has warned hay fever sufferers that spring has arrived up to four weeks earlier than usual. The pollen that causes so many symptoms is already causing misery. To make matters worse, the warmer weather will prolong hay fever season. The NPN said: "It's a little unsettling. It perhaps isn't surprising, given the trajectory our planet is on."

Phenologists, climatologists and meteorologists are blaming climate change for the unseasonably warmer weather. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that the U.S. winter's average temperature was 2.7 degrees warmer than the 20th century average. Lauren Casey, a meteorologist with Climate Central, told the CNN news agency that climate change is resulting in earlier and longer seasons for plants, causing a greater prevalence of pollen. She said pollen was "the enemy" of people who suffer from allergies. She said pollen can trigger asthma attacks and aggravate mold allergies. Another scientist said: "Acting on climate change really does matter for people's health."

Sources: yahoo.com / the guardian.com / upi.com

Writing

It is too late to reverse the damage from climate change. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

everyone / joys / spring / delight / blossoms /
allergies / hay fever / season / planet /
meteorologists / climate change / winter /
temperature / pollen / enemy / mold

True / False

- 1) Everyone looks forward to the joys of spring. T / F
- 2) Many people dread spring when flowers start blooming. T / F
- 3) Spring arrived four weeks early in parts of the USA. T / F
- 4) A phenologist said she was surprised that fever season started early. T / F
- 5) Phenologists say the warmer weather is responsible for climate change. T / F
- 6) There will be less pollen around this year. T / F
- 7) Pollen can cause asthma sufferers to have an asthma attack. T / F
- 8) A meteorologist said mold can be used to help with hay fever. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. joys | a. set off |
| 2. glory | b. course |
| 3. delicate | c. unhappiness |
| 4. misery | d. worsen |
| 5. trajectory | e. magnificence |
| 6. blaming | f. presence |
| 7. seasons | g. delights |
| 8. prevalence | h. attributing |
| 9. trigger | i. periods |
| 10. aggravate | j. fragile |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What does a phenologist study?
- c) How have the temperatures where you live been?
- d) What would it be like to be allergic to English?
- e) What's your favourite season?
- f) What do you know about asthma?
- g) How does climate change affect our health?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the meteorologist?

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Phrase Match

1. everyone in the world looks forward
 2. newly-formed
 3. seasonal allergies
 4. warmer weather will prolong
 5. the trajectory our
 6. the unseasonably
 7. warmer than the
 8. a greater prevalence
 9. pollen can trigger
 10. aggravate mold
- a. warmer weather
 - b. hay fever season
 - c. allergies
 - d. planet is on
 - e. 20th century average
 - f. like hay fever
 - g. asthma attacks
 - h. to the joys of spring
 - i. of pollen
 - j. buds

Discussion – Student B

- a) What are the joys of spring?
- b) How do you feel when you see flowers blossoming in spring?
- c) What do you know about hay fever?
- d) What allergies do you have?
- e) What are the worst allergies to have?
- f) How is climate change affecting you?
- g) How bad are the symptoms of hay fever?
- h) What trajectory is our planet on?

Spelling

1. people take delight in sovinbreg the glory
2. buds revealing their aiecltde blossoms
3. blooming plants bring aensolas allergies
4. hay fever rsfureesf
5. pollen that causes so many topssmmmy
6. given the trjrcatoey our planet is on
7. oesotrolgmiset are blaming climate change
8. nsayelaosbun warmer weather
9. the U.S. winter's average emuarpteret
10. causing a greater rcaenelevp of pollen
11. pollen can trigger htasma attacks
12. gaaergvat mold allergies

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. c	5. b
6. h	7. i	8. f	9. a	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Pollen

You think an allergy to pollen is the worst allergy to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their allergies aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): eggs, English or milk.

Role B – Eggs

You think an allergy to eggs is the worst allergy to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their allergies aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): pollen, English or milk.

Role C – English

You think an allergy to English is the worst allergy to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their allergies aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): eggs, pollen or milk.

Role D – Milk

You think an allergy to milk is the worst allergy to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their allergies aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): eggs, English or pollen.

Speaking – Allergies

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst allergies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Pollen
- Chocolate
- Eggs
- English
- Milk
- Peanuts
- Wheat
- Soya beans

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.