

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health

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Extreme Rainfall in Southcentral Alaska - Rain and more rain in Southcentral, Alaska. This July was one of the rainiest months on record for Anchorage, and as of this morning it is still [pouring](#)! At Merrill Field in Anchorage, a total of 2.24 inches fell in July ([WeatherUnderground](#)). The past average precipitation (2001-2010) has been more like 1.7 inches ([SNAP Community Charts](#)). This amount of rainfall is pretty close to the 50 year projections made for Anchorage's future! Amounts comparable to what we currently find in Seward. Although the weather has many people wondering what happened to summer, the rain does provide some advantages, including good air quality, and almost no wildfires, and advantages for trees and some plants. Recent news articles provide clues about how weather and climate are affecting Alaska's gardening and agriculture.

Higher Temperatures Give Alaska Longer Growing Season - Associated Press (August 2, 2010) According to the Alaska Climate Research Center, Fairbanks is 2 1/2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer and 11 percent drier than it was 100 years ago. The changes have stretched the growing season from 85 days in the early 20th century to 123 days. [Read Article](#)

Tiny Bugs Making a Mess of Anchorage Gardens - Tiny insects called [thrips](#) are infesting Alaska this summer. The little black bugs are invading greenhouses and gardens across Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. They're munching on dahlias and peonies and lettuce. Michele Hebert, an agriculture agent at the Cooperative Extension Service said the thrips population is at an unprecedented high, the worst she's seen in 20 years. She guesses this year's thrips infestation has to do with recent mild winters, which may have allowed the bugs to grow in larger numbers than usual. [Read Article](#). See also an [article](#) by Jeff Lowenfels about controlling thrips.

If you have an observation or an update you would like to include in our E-News or have added to our [Alaska Climate Events Map](#), send a message to mbrubaker@anthc.org. To join the E-News mailing list, just respond to this message with your contact (e-mail/name) information. Click [> here](#) for prior E-News archived at the Arctic Health Library.

Regards, Mike

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