




Hello, neighbors! April, usually a mild month, brought us late freezes, high winds, heavy storms, and flooding.

DID YOU KNOW – that you can sign up for local weather alerts through the county website? Here’s the info from Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Chris Grimes:

Forsyth County residents can sign up to receive time-sensitive weather alerts for severe thunderstorm warnings, flash flood warnings and tornado warnings. Citizens can elect to be notified when alerts are issued via telephone calls, emails or text messages. There is no cost for citizens to sign up to receive these weather alerts, but phone usage or text charges may apply.


To sign up for the alerts, visit the Forsyth County Web site at www.forsythco.com and look for the ‘Sign up to receive Forsyth County Weather Alerts’ icon on the home page. You will be directed to a secure sign-up page hosted by Twenty First Century Communications. The information provided during the registration process determines the geographical region of the county for which you will receive alerts.

The Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency recommends that residents use the weather alert notifications in concert with other notifications, including a NOAA weather radio and the county’s outdoor severe weather sirens.

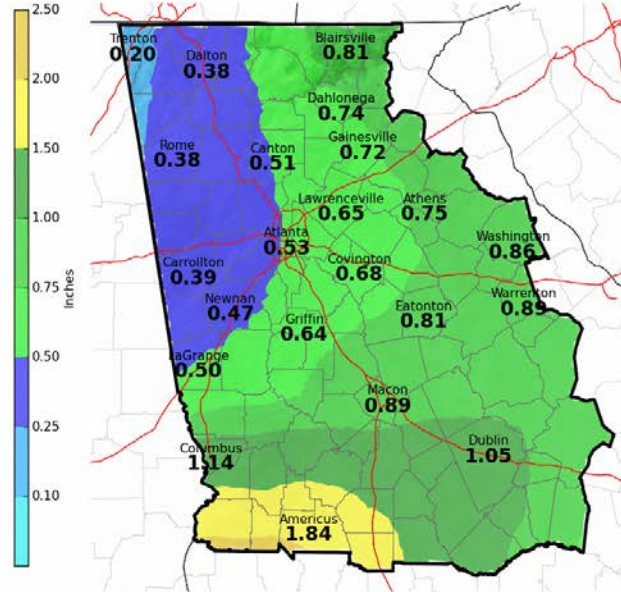




Threat for Flooding Diminishing

Minor Flooding Possible




Storm Total Rain
Valid: May 1, 2014



National Weather Service
Peachtree City, GA
04/30/2014 05:02 AM EDT

Timing	▪ Today and Tonight
Hazards	▪ Minor river flooding ▪ Isolated flash flooding possible (especially in thunderstorms) ▪ Flood Watch remains in effect



5:19 AM EDT
Wed Apr 30 2014
National Weather Service
Peachtree City, GA

FLOOD CONTROL – Floods are the most common natural disasters in the U.S. Man-made hardscapes – roofs, roads, parking lots and patios – significantly increase stormwater runoff. In addition to carrying trash and pollution into streams, the excess water erodes stream banks and can overwhelm the carrying capacity of waterways. The result is flooding.

[Rain gardens](#) are landscape enhancements that reduce flooding, increase water quality, and conserve water. Forsyth County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers, working with students from Central High School and in partnership with Sawnee Woman’s Club, installed a rain garden outside the public records offices at the Juvenile Justice Center. This garden captures about 600 gallons of rainwater runoff from the office building roof with each rain event. Over the next 24-48 hours, the rainwater slowly infiltrates the soil to recharge underground aquifers. Before the rain garden was built, this water was piped to the parking lot, adding to the problem of excess, polluted water flooding into streams.



DAMAGE CONTROL – Mitigation efforts strive to reduce damage from events that are out of our control. Examples include removing dead trees before they fall on a house or car, and reducing stormwater runoff to lessen the chances of flooding. When mitigation efforts are not enough, we can reduce damage by being prepared to act for our own protection. In addition to preparing a [grab and go bag for emergencies](#), we should plan where we will go if we must bug-out, and how we’ll get there. The best plans include options; if one evacuation route is blocked, what other road will get you away from danger? Now is a great time to find out. Take a look at a map, and select at least two exit routes from your home or office. Then practice them. If you’ll be evacuating animals, drive the routes with the trailer attached so you can identify obstacles. When you’ve decided on 2-3 evacuation options that work best, mark them on the map and store the map in the vehicle where it will be handy if needed.

NEW USDA SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR SMALL AND VERY SMALL PRODUCERS – Yesterday, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced three programs to support small producers. One program provides a less costly avenue for cattle producers marketing 49 or fewer cattle annually to receive grass fed certification for marketing purposes. Visit USDA’s [Grass Fed Small and Very Small Producer Program](#) website for more information.

HEALTH AND DIET WORKSHOP – Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Michele Melton is offering a free workshop on gluten sensitivity. Here are the details:

Gluten Free, Is it for Me? – Free Workshop

If you or a loved one is suffering with some form of gluten sensitivity or you’d simply like to learn more about it, I invite you to attend an upcoming free workshop that will review both the myths and facts of gluten. I’m partnering with my Fulton County FACS colleague (Kisha Faulk) to offer a daytime and

evening option. Registration is required because of limited space and supplies (we'll be doing a few activities, including a taste test). We hope to see you there!

Monday, May 12th

10:30am-Noon: Post Rd. Library (5010 Post Road, Cumming, GA 30040)

or

6:00 – 7:30pm: North Fulton Service Center – Room 212 (7741 Roswell Road NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30350)

Register for either option by contacting Michele Melton at 770-887-2418 or msmelton@uga.edu (Be sure to indicate which session you'd like to attend)

As we move into more pleasant weather through the weekend, happy gardening!

Heather

You are receiving this newsletter because you have requested information from Forsyth County Extension or participated in programs through our office. If you would like to be removed from the Extension News email system, please contact hnikolich@uga.edu . Please include your full name in the body of the email.