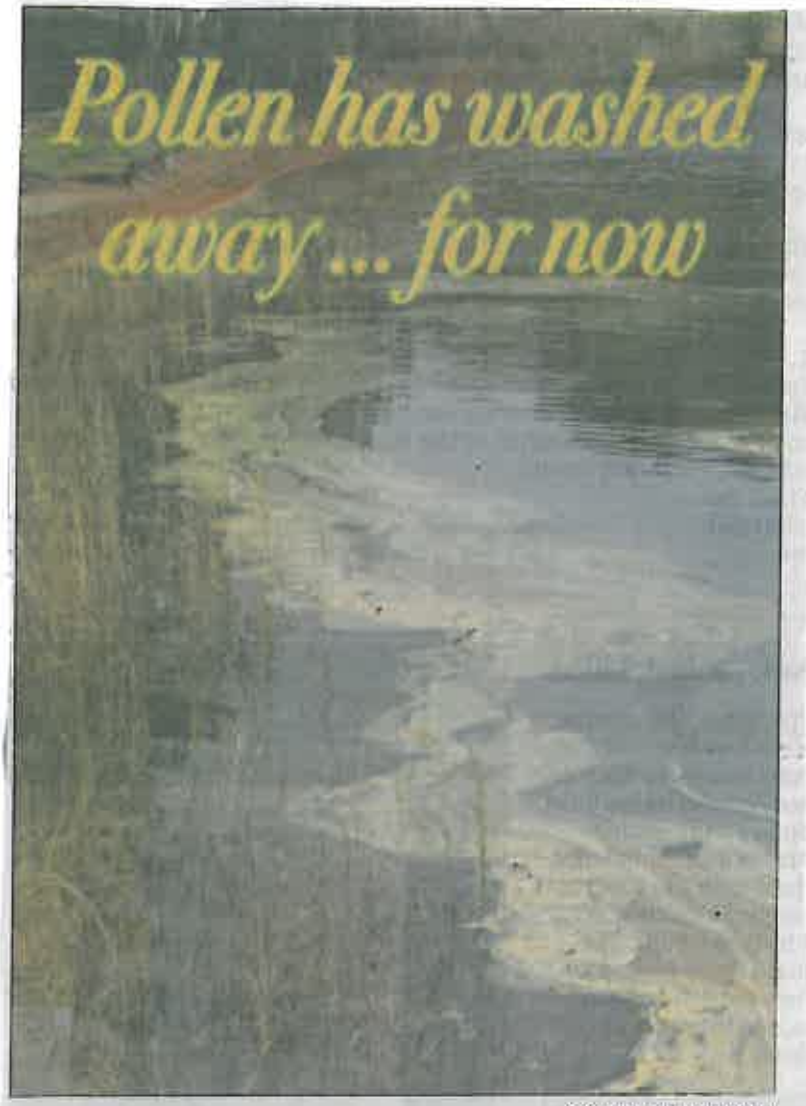
Pollen has washed away ... for now



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

"The pollen is so bad right now because oak and pine trees, two dominant groups, are in the peak of pollination," said Donald Hagan, a forest ecologist and lecturer for Clemson University's School of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences.

BY MIKAYLA KREUZBERGER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Thursday night's storms brought heavy wind and rain to the Upstate, and, with it, temporary relief from tree pollen that has coated pretty much everything in sight.

"The pollen is so bad right now because oak and pine trees, two dominant groups, are in the peak of pollination," said Donald Hagan, a forest ecologist and lecturer for Clemson University's School of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences.

Wet weather lessens the amount of airborne pollen, and Hagan said he expected a substantial decrease in the amount of pollen over the next few days.

But that won't last for long.

"Right now is the middle of tree pollen season, which usually lasts from March until May," he said. "It's likely to pick back up and taper off in late spring. But that doesn't include grass and weed pollen that comes later."

He didn't notice a particular increase in the amount of pollen in the air from last season.

"Temperatures warm, trees break their dormancy and they reproduce," he said. "Male trees release their pollen through cones and flowers, and it results in a tremendous amount in the air."

Despite Thursday night's rain, warm, dry weather is expected this weekend.

Accuweather.com reported clouds to move out around noon to 1 p.m. today, and temperatures are expected to reach the high 70s this afternoon. Sunny skies and warm temperatures are expected until Monday, when possible showers are expected.

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