



## Allergy season returns

by [Joel Allen](#)

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You've seen it all over your car. Soon you may feel it in your nose and throat. It's pollen time again and doctors say folks who are new to the Grand Strand often suffer the most during allergy season.

With coughing, swollen eyes and skin rash, Bernadette Rosenkranz has a serious allergy problem. "I get two shots a week," Rosenkranz said.

But she didn't suffer from allergies until she moved to Myrtle Beach. "Since I came here, I was really having a lot of trouble," she said.

Allergy specialist Dr. Mark Schecker says he hears it all the time. People who move to the Grand Strand from other states aren't used to the new species of pollen-producing trees and plants in the area and find themselves suffering from allergies they've never had before. Also, the growing season is much longer here.

"And we know the way allergies work that the longer the exposure you have, the more likely you are to have symptoms and the more likely those symptoms are to be serious," Schecker said.

Spring is an especially difficult time of year for allergy sufferer Vanessa Martin.

"Stuffy, hoarseness, sore throat all the time from the pollen and stuff," Martin said.

Dr. Schecker says the fact that Martin's symptoms return every spring is no coincidence and it shatters the myth that allergies are all in the sufferer's imagination.

"There are very, very few psychological effects in allergy. It's a true illness," Schecker said.

Vanessa Martin needs no convincing.

"I start itching, my skin starts breaking out, my eyes will swell to where they're closed," she said.

And Dr. Schecker says recent rain in our area could make this an especially bad spring for allergies.