

April 2015 Precipitation Summary

There were three significant precipitation events during April 2015 and are listed as follows:

April 7-10: Occasional light rain developed across parts of Central and Southeast Virginia on the morning of the 7th...ahead of a southward moving cold front. The front moved through the region during the morning of the 8th. The cold front remained south of the area until the morning of the 10th and then lifted northward as a warm front. Another cold front then moved east across the area during the early morning hours of the 11th. Although periodic light precipitation occurred during this period, most of the precipitation that fell was from thunderstorms. Thunderstorms occurred over the Eastern Piedmont on the evening of the 8th and then shifted down along inland areas near the VA/NC border. Another round of precipitation developed over Virginia during the pre-dawn hours of the 9th and brought more rain and a few thunderstorms to most areas as it moved to the coast by late morning. As previously mentioned, a warm front lifted north through the region on the 10th. One last round of thunderstorms occurred within the warm sector late on the 10th and affected all areas except Northeast North Carolina. Total precipitation for the 4-day average was 0.33 to 0.66 inches for most locations but southern portions of Central and South Central Virginia into interior Northeast North Carolina and northeastward to the Peninsula area received 1.00 to 1.50 inches of rain.

April 19-20: A large low pressure system was over the Great Lakes and helped to lift a warm front through the Mid Atlantic States early in the morning of the 20th. Widespread showers occurred out ahead of the warm front during the evening of the 19th. A cold front associated with the Great Lakes system approached the region late in the evening on the 20th, thus triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms with the cold frontal passage. The most widespread precipitation occurred during the evening and early morning hours of the 19th and 20th in association with the warm front. Total precipitation during this 48 hour period from 8:00 am (April 19th) to 8:00 am (April 21st) ranged from 1.00 to 2.00 inches across most of the area. Two CoCoRaHS sites in Hertford County, NC received over 3.00 inches of rain during this event. Locations across Southeast Virginia, Northeast North Carolina, and Chester, VA areas averaged 2.00 to 3.00 inches of rainfall. Approximately 1.00 inch of rain was reported over the Lower Eastern Shore while a few locations over inland Virginia received less than 1.00 inches of rain. The sporadic nature of these precipitation storm totals reinforces the need for CoCoRaHS observers.

April 25-26: An east-west oriented cold front had stalled across the Carolinas (just south of the local NWS Wakefield forecast area) with overrunning precipitation developing in its vicinity. Northeast North Carolina was too close to the front to get much of the overrunning/steady rain. Meanwhile...northeast portions of the area (including the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore) were too dry and away from the main lifting mechanism associated with the cold front. As a result, Central Virginia received

around 1.00 inches of rain with Southeast Virginia receiving between 0.50 and 0.75 inches with this particular event.

Precipitation Totals for April 2015

Rainfall was generally above normal for most locations of the local NWS Wakefield forecast area with totals that ranged from 3.00 to 5.00 inches. The more notable higher amounts of 4.00 to 5.00 inches were reported from the Eastern Piedmont to down along the James and York Rivers and then across the Hampton Roads area. Sporadic reports of higher amounts could be found in Central Virginia as well as the Hampton Roads and Tidewater areas. Lesser precipitation totals for the month across South Central Virginia and the Northern Neck ranged from 2.00 to 3.00 inches.

