

News/View 28 Jan. 1982

Rain foretells good spring flowers

The weather of 1981 for the Desert Foothills, as compared to that of 1980, performed in a more normal and predictable pattern and was more characteristic of the climatic conditions for this area. Following is a record of rainfall as kept by Andy Romanyak in Canyon del Oro, on the south slopes of Continental Mountain; by Don Leavitt on Stevens Road, immediately north of Black Mountain, and reported in the *News/View*; and at the Carefree Airport, which records for the U.S. Weather Bureau.



Month	Canyon del Oro	Stevens Road	Carefree Airport
Jan.	.48	.56	.46
Feb.	1.49	1.50	1.19
March	2.42	2.57	2.14
April	.60	.62	.67
May	1.28	1.37	1.15
June	.32	.06	.03
July	1.06	1.80	1.24
Aug.	1.47	.06	.18
Sept.	1.30	1.84	1.16
Oct.	2.29	2.40	1.72
Nov.	1.25	1.74	.39
Dec.	.02	-	.02
Total	13.98	14.52	10.35

The figures for the summer and winter periods are representative of our unique bi-seasonal rainfall, and the yearly average follows the normal expectations for the area. (At Canyon del Oro, the nine-year average is 14.85 inches.)

Of particular interest is the rainfall in the months of October and November (especially November) which is apparently providing the required amount necessary for sufficient moisture retention in the soil to trigger germination of the quiescent seeds of the desert annuals. If these moisture conditions continue and are coupled with favorable temperatures for the first months of 1982, it appears that there is every indication for a most-welcome spring floral display in the Foothills this year. As of this writing, in the third week of January, (with threatening skies overhead and rain predicted) the year is starting out with a rainfall of 2.24 inches!