

When the neighbors call... Rain trackers routinely gets calls asking about weather and outdoor plans. They ask me, "Is October safe?" says Trowbridge. When her daughter planned her wedding in late May three years ago, Trowbridge thought it was a pretty safe bet. "Turned out it rained in the morning, but fortunately it stopped," she says. When Prager's daughter chose an early September wedding date with an outdoor reception, he checked

the rain records and felt pretty confident that they would stay dry. His prediction held. But who knows, as the rain trackers say, there is so much variability.

So will it be a rainy year? "There is no way you can know in December if it's going to be a dry or wet year," says Prager. He has analyzed how much rain falls in the area by late December, based on his data over the last twenty year. Early rainfall ranges from as little as three

inches by December to as much as 20 inches and can represent anywhere from 15% to 52% of the year's total rainfall. [See a summary table of his rainfall data] So whether it will be a wet winter will require you to wait and see.

**Calling all rain trackers:** If you have been tracking the local rainfall patterns, we want to hear from you. Tell us about it at [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com).

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Contra Costa County's Rain Gauge with daily rainfall measurements from Orinda (fire station 43) and Moraga (SMC) and cumulative annual data <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=1455>

EBMUD's Daily Water Supply Report with daily, monthly, and seasonal data: <http://www.ebmud.com/daily-water-supply-report>

The Cutting Edge Use of Water Use and Reuse (in Lamorinda): <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0507/The-Cutting-Edge-of-Water-Use-and-Reuse.html>

Orinda Can See the Forest for the Trees—another story with Allan Prager: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0324/Orinda-Can-See-the-Forest-for-the-Trees.html>

