THE WINDS ARE SHIFTING, blowing from the southeast and the Gulf of California rather than the west. Traditionally, our summer rains begin around Independence Day. How appropriate since providing about half our annual allotment, they help guarantee our freedom from drought and their thunder and lightning rival any pyrotechnics. Each afternoon, the clouds over the Catalinas build, rise, and build again over the foothills. Our summer climate can be described as monsoonic. It is a short summer of love for another short summer of love.

MONSOON SUMMER... REJUVENATION

This "SECOND" SUMMER is unique to the Arizona Uplands. It is marked by lower temperatures, higher humidity, and precipitation, especially in the southern mountains. Typically, the monsoon season begins in mid-June and lasts until mid-September. Rainfall is usually heavier during the nights and early mornings. Summer days are hot and dry, but thunderstorms are common in the late afternoon and evening.

WHIRLING DERIVES

Summer rains prompt leafcutter bees and other ant species to grow temporary wings and fly to the hills of nectar. Homeless queens, followed by hundreds of soldiers, will mate before selecting the right location for a new colony. Summer rains also bring "pooped out" seeds from June. Summer rains long live as tiny succulent nubs hidden in leaf litter and gravel.

AND THOSE FALLEN SAGUARO FRUIT and blooming saguaro blossom. While the saguaro is a cactus with a dry climate, it requires water to grow, and it does so in the form of summer rains. Summer rains bring new growth to the saguaro, and the fruits that fall to the ground can germinate and grow. The saguaro blossom is a delicate flower that blooms in the summer months and is a symbol of the Arizona Uplands.

\[\text{Monsoon Summer Avg. Temperature: } 70-80^\circ F (21-26^\circ C) \text{ to } 90-95^\circ F (32-35^\circ C)\]
\[\text{Average Precipitation: } 10-15 \text{ in. (25-38 cm)}\]