

State's Rainfall Averaged 12.1 Inches For 1961

A statewide Arizona average rainfall figure of 12.1 inches for 1961 was announced today by Christine R. Green, statistical analyst in The University of Arizona's Institute of Atmosphere Physics.

The IAP's 1960 statewide average was 10.3 inches. The "long term" statewide average, established by the IAP, is 13.03 inches.

The institute's yearly figure is prepared by a special analysis technique. Rainfall amounts from 41 reporting weather stations in Arizona, each representing a 50-square-mile area, are used with a weighting factor for calculating the annual average.

The project, initiated in 1959 under the direction of Dr. James E. McDonald, IAP senior physicist, has compiled the weighted average rainfall amounts for each year since 1925.

The U of A weather station reported 10.25 inches of 1961 rainfall as compared with 9.34 inches for 1960 — "despite 1961's continuous-day drought from March 31 to July 2," Mrs. Green said. The "long term" yearly averages for the U of A station, using 63 years as a basis, is 10.91 inches.

The U. S. Weather Bureau at Tucson Municipal Airport reported 10.89 inches of 1961 rainfall against 8.74 inches in 1960, the IAP analyst said.

In summing up 1961 rainfall amounts at the 41 stations throughout the state, Mrs. Green said, "Many had an overabundance and many were short of the mean."