



AGAVE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTING, INC.

Monsoon season is coming in faster than a Haboob in July! Are you ready?!



According to the National Weather Service, monsoon season runs from June 15 to September 30.

Let's start with some fun facts!

- During a monsoon, lightning will strike about 500,000 times.
- Tarantulas and other critters and bugs tend to come out more often.
- 99 days was the longest monsoon on record back in 1984.
- Arizona is not the state most struck by lightning. Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi

and Alabama take the top 4 spots with South Carolina and Oklahoma tying for 5th place.

Per the National Weather Service:

Each year, a variety of weather related dangers affect the American Southwest, especially from late spring into early autumn. Through a collaborative effort between SW U.S. National Weather Service offices, the time period from **June 15th through September 30th has been defined as "The Monsoon."** A period of extreme heat is typically ongoing at its onset, which in the coming days or weeks is followed by an influx of moisture leading to daily rounds of thunderstorms. The heat is deadly in its own right, causing more deaths than any other weather hazard in the region each year. In addition, thunderstorms present an array of hazards which often strike suddenly and with violent force.

Lightning strikes, high winds, dust storms, wildfires, tornadoes, flash flooding and extreme heat cause numerous deaths and injuries along with tens of millions of dollars of damage each year

(see www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/). Road closures, as well as power and communication outages are additional consequences of monsoon weather hazards such as flash floods, lightning, thunderstorms and dust storms, extreme heat, and wildfires.





There are two rainy seasons in the Sonoran Desert, one in winter, bringing somewhat regular and gentler storms, and one in summer with heavier and sporadic storms. The summer rains are known as monsoon season, and this is said to be around June through September. Monsoon season can bring half the annual rainfall for the year-sometimes in a single storm. These rains follow the hottest and driest season, and they are critical for the plants, animals and insects that depend on this cyclical rainy relief.

Arizona mesquite trees are usually squatty and short, covered in thorns, and are characterized by yellow flowers. They bloom each **spring** and produce long, unique seed pods in fall. Most palo verde trees put on their bold yellow flower show in April and May, but some of them are bursting into brilliant bloom even as summer begins and daily high temperatures soar past 100 degrees. The bloom could continue well into summer. Arizona monsoons are not only hard on us, it can wreak havoc on our landscape, and in particular, trees.

Due to the winds, this weather can bring down trees with ease. However, you are more likely to experience your allergies are picking up, and the blooms of the palo verdes and mesquites, while beautiful, also fall victim to the monsoon winds. Unfortunately, the winds will consistently shed the flowers throughout the season. This is to be expected, and nature is going to always win this battle.

