

RAINFALL CHART

For the year -----

DATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
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MONTHLY TOTALS, MM												
MONTHLY TOTALS, INCHES												
YEARLY TOTALS, MM												
YEARLY TOTALS, INCHES												
RAIN DAYS												

1mm x 0.03937 = ? inches (1mm = 0.03937 inches)

1mm x 3.937 = ? points (1mm = 3.937 points)

25.4mm = 1 inch / 100 points

How to take rainfall measurements

The site selected for a rain gauge should, if possible, be an open one, unobstructed by high trees or fences, on level ground, not on a slope or terrace.

For accuracy, a rain gauge should be secured to a post by mounting a enclosed bracket in a true vertical position as near to the ground level as possible, or at the lowest safe height.

The post on which a rain gauge is fixed should be twice as far away as the height of surrounding buildings or trees.

Wind is the most serious disturbing influence. Driving rain will fail to reach the opening of the gauge if it is placed too close to buildings or trees. On the other hand, if the gauge is in a very open position the wind blowing against the gauge causes eddies, which occasionally carry away considerable quantities of rain. As much as 20 percent has been known to be lost at times.

Rainfall should be measured at 9am. Daily and the amount entered against the date on which it was measured. In N.Z. it is entered against the date of the previous day.

The gauge should be examined immediately on the cessation of heavy rain, the amount and the time of commencement and cessation noticed and the water returned to the gauge, so as not to interfere with the next mornings reading.

Best results are obtained by installing a rain gauge in pairs and spacing them, about 6 metres apart. The effects of strong winds are thus reduced and more accurate readings may be obtained from the average of such pairs.

By reason of the greater ratio of catchment area to the calibrated measure the a rain gauge is an even more accurate instrument and has a capacity of over 250mm of rainfall.

1. Remove catchment funnel and lift out the inner measure, which holds 25mm of water and is graduated every 1mm.
2. If this is less than 25mm, take the reading by holding it upright or setting it on a level slab, then bringing the eye opposite the water level to fix the nearest line on the scale to the water surface, e.g. if this is just above the mark 6mm, then the reading is 6mm of rainfall.
3. If rainfall has exceeded 25mm, the water will overflow into the outer container and this can be carefully poured up to the 25mm mark on the inner measure as often as necessary, counting the number of times measured and finally measuring the residue in mm. e.g. 3 measures (including first) = 75mm + 6mm residue = 81mm.
4. Should it be necessary, the water may be emptied into a separate container so it can be checked at the usual time each day.
5. Replace empty measure in gauge, locate catchment funnel, replace gauge in bracket and record rainfall, in mm, on this chart or suitable rainfall journal.