

Rain, Rain Definitely Don't go away...

We began saying MASHIV HARU'ACH UMORID HAGESHEM (MHUH) on Shmini Atzeret (a.k.a. Simchat Torah) and continue until the first day of Pesach.

Omitting MHUH invalidates the Amida and one must repeat the whole Amida.

HOWEVER, since it is our custom to say MORID HATAL during the period when MHUH is not said, if one forgets to say MHUH, he can assume that he did say MORID HATAL (because a habit is established with a month or 90 times). In such case, the Amida is not invalid and one does not repeat it.

Although MHUH is correct, and MORID HATAL is not (during this period of time), at least one acknowledges G-d's involvement in the weather - and that allows the Amida to stand.

If one follows the practice of not replacing MHUH with anything (as was the original procedure, and still is for Nusach Ashkenaz abroad), then omitting MHUH (or even not being sure, during the first month or so after Shmini Atzeret) requires repeating the entire Amida.