



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 2 Issue 3

June 2013

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JUNE 2013

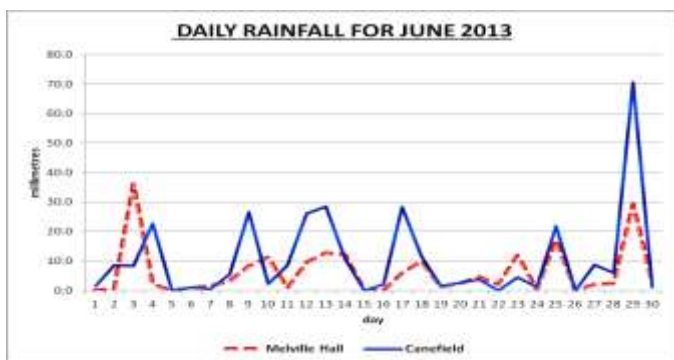


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

With the onset of the hurricane season, weekly tropical waves traversed the area and brought in much of the rainfall received this month.

The Canefield Airport has seen yet another wet month. Rainfall total of 314.7mm was recorded and this total is 97% above its average. That's the second highest on record from 1982. The highest daily total of 70.6mm was recorded on the 29th. A record breaking of 25 wet days were recorded which is 9 days above normal. During the month no dry spells were evident .

Rainfall recorded at Melville Hall was amazingly exactly on average. A total of 191.0mm was recorded. The highest daily total was 36.1mm and was recorded on the 03rd. There were 21 wet days which is just 3 days above normal. There was no significant dry spell.

Vegetable establishments were affected by the heavy rainfall with the rotting of mature crops such as cabbages and the washing away of seedlings. There was an increase incidence of pest and disease problems in open field vegetables and greenhouse production which resulted in a decline in production. Tomato was the

crop that was most affected by the most devastating of diseases, **Bacterial Blight**. This situation is being addressed by research activity and staff training and development. A humidity chamber is being constructed for grafting tomato seedlings and plants.

There was an increase incident in snails, slugs and the Black Sigatoka Disease which was seen in new areas in the southern agricultural region. Weeds/ grass species were a major problem as the weather favoured their growth. Livestock that forage had an abundance of grass for feeding. There was a decline in the symptoms of the Dasheen Mosaic Virus.

The major crop establishment that took place for the month was root crops.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	314.7mm	191.0mm
30 year average	159.5mm	191.0mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	25	21
Temperature	28.3°C	28.1°C
30 year average	29.1°C	28.5°C
Maximum Temperature	32.5°C (24 th , 27 th)	31.0°C (28 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.0°C (8 th)	23.3°C (8 th)
Relative Humidity	67%	75%
Maximum wind gust	61km/h	72km/h

Table 2 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JULY 2013

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	251.4mm	237.2mm
<i>-highest total</i>	410.6mm (2011)	459.2mm (2011)
<i>-lowest total</i>	45.1mm (1994)	57.4mm (1994)
Temperature	28.9°C	28.6°C
<i>-maximum</i>	34.5°C (1995)	33.2°C (1995)
<i>-minimum</i>	20.5°C (1989)	20.7°C (1989, 1993)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	29%	19%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	0%	3%

Table 1 Climate summary for July

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

- Normal to above normal rainfall is the predominant trend for July through September.
- There is a 40% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 30% chance of being normal and a 30% chance of being below normal.
- The expected normal to wet conditions may keep air temperatures relatively mild rather than hot.

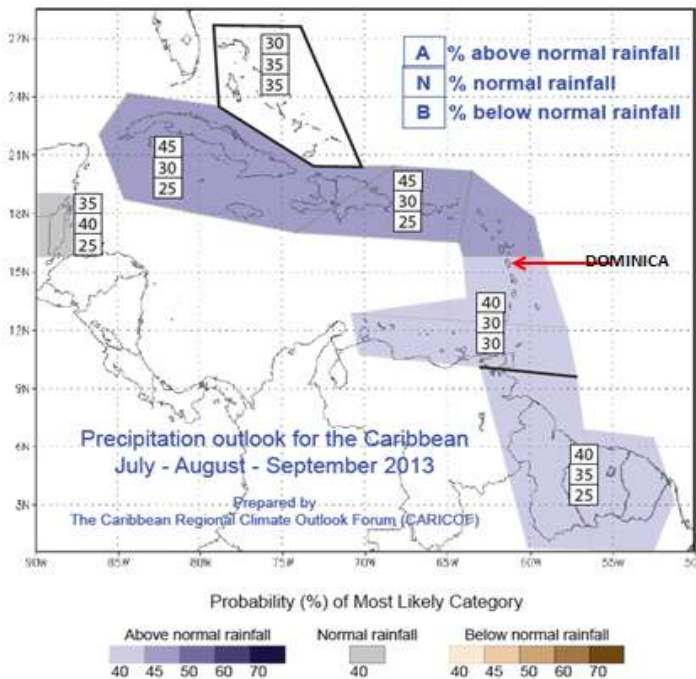


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: July-August-September 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are encouraged to continue practices that will help curb the rise of pests and diseases, as rainfall amounts are expected to continue being above average.

- Strict farm sanitation is key in the controlling of pest and diseases.
- Weed management is essential in farm practices.
- Livestock species should be de-wormed and vitamins given to strengthen animals' immune system.
- Application of slug bait might be necessary to keep away slugs and snails in areas where their population is high.
- For banana and plantain farmers, de-leafing is critical in management of the Black Sigatoka Disease.
- Improve crop density by using the recommended spacing for the planting of crops.
- Improve drainage on farms to allow proper water flow.

HURRICANE TIPS

During a Hurricane Watch: remove and secure coverings of greenhouses or nurseries, disconnect electrical fixtures on farms and remove lines and pump near ravines or streams.

2013 HURRICANE NAMES

Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, Wendy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The third farmer's forum took place on the 25th of June. Special thank you to all those who participated. The tripartite committee will be meeting soon to discuss the way forward. Please remember we are in the hurricane season. Be prepared.

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.

Moon Phases: ● NM: 8th ● FQ: 16th ● FM: 22nd ● LQ: 29th

This bulletin is prepared by the Dominica Meteorological Service with support from the CAMI project and the Ministry of Agriculture. Feedback on this bulletin should be forwarded to The Senior Meteorological Officer at metoffice@cwdom.dm Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline: 447 5555