



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR MARCH 2015

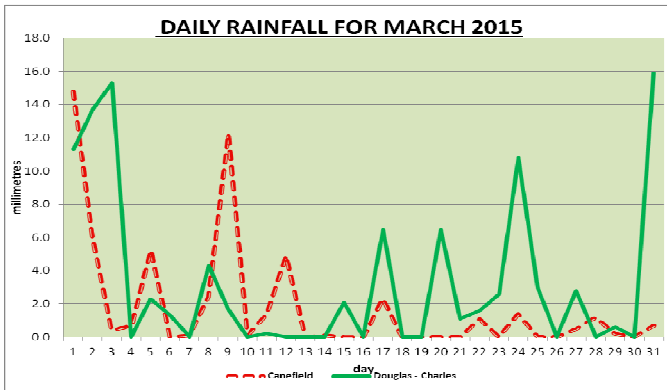


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

## MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR MARCH

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	55.7mm	103.6mm
30 year normal	31.6 to 56.0mm	74.2 to 130.3mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	11	17
Temperature	27.0°C	26.5°C
30 year average	26.9°C	26.4°C
Maximum Temperature	32.2°C (26 <sup>th</sup> )	29.5°C (20 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	20.2°C (17 <sup>th</sup> )	18.9°C (17 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	60%	69%
Maximum wind gust	54km/h	63km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	8hrs 18mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

**Canefield Airport** recorded 55.7mm of rainfall which is normal. The month's highest daily rainfall total was 14.8mm recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Rainfall days were normal. There were 2 four-day dry spells towards the end of the second week and into the third.

Normal rainfall, 103.6mm, was recorded at **Douglas-Charles Airport**. The highest rainfall total recorded was 15.9mm on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were 17 rainfall days, 2 days

more than normal. There was a 5-day dry spell during the second week.

In the northern part of the island, farmers complained of the uncharacteristic dry conditions being experienced. Rain-fed crops under production and livestock faced water stress. In the south however, rainfall amounts were reported to be normal. There was adequate moisture for continued vegetable establishment and production. Farmers also reported that strong winds were experienced for a few days during the month and day and night time temperatures had increased slightly.

Pest problems such as black leg and verticillium wilt affected crops such as the Irish potato. Black leg is a bacterial disease that causes plant stems to rot and is favored by moist conditions during planting. Infected plants have curled leaves near the top. In advanced stages, plants are wilted, foliage yellows, and leaves roll. Tubers may rot while in the field or after being placed in storage.

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR APRIL

Latter part of the dry season; occasionally very wet.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	54.8mm	171.8mm
-highest total	203.6mm (2013)	772.9mm (1981)
-lowest total	3.5mm (1983)	18.8mm (1997)
Temperature	27.9°C	27.2°C
-maximum	34.8°C (2005)	33.1°C (2005)
-minimum	18.6°C (2009)	18.0°C (1985)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	97%	67%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	67%	23%

Table 2 Climate summary for April

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**

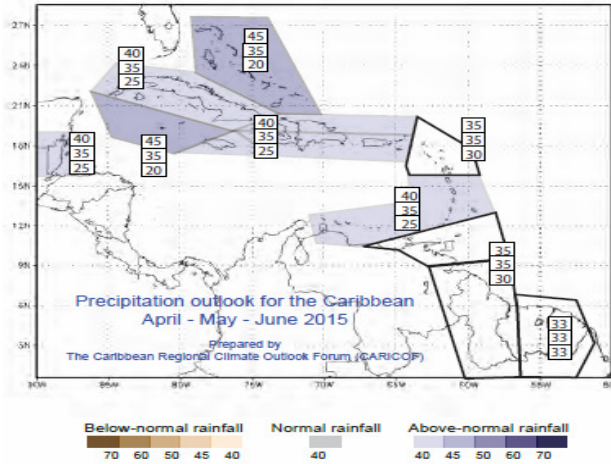
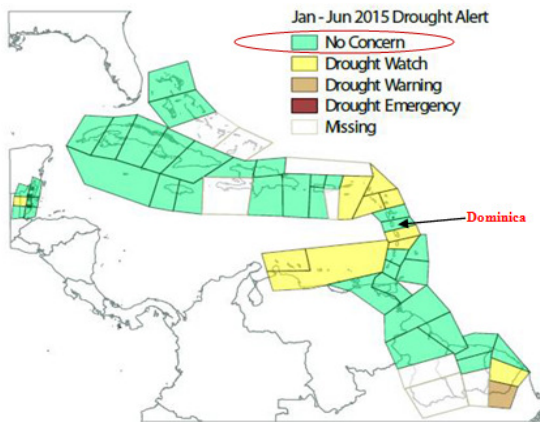


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: April-May-June 2015

- Rainfall amounts and air temperature are expected to be normal to above normal 75% confidence.
- There is a 40% chance of above normal, 35% normal and 25% below normal rainfall amounts.

**REGIONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK**



FM: 4<sup>th</sup> LQ: 12<sup>th</sup> NM: 18<sup>th</sup> FQ: 25<sup>th</sup>

**Short-term:** Drought outlook has improved.

**Long-term:** Impactful hydrological drought, still a concern and Dominica remains under drought warning.

El Nino has emerged which usually results in drier dry season, but with higher temperatures, a wetter dry season is suggested. Water conservation is encouraged.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

With higher probability of normal to above normal rainfall for the rest of the dry season, farmers should continue establishing their fields with root crops such as dasheen, yams, tannia and sweet potato.

Water, weed, pest and disease and fertility management is an essential component of the farm management plan for crop success.

Recommendations for managing black leg include:

- Remove infected and bordering plants and burn
- Remove weeds and crop residue to reduce moisture levels in the soil
- Avoid excessive irrigation
- Clean and disinfect tools, boots and equipment using 10% bleach solution before and after use
- Ensure that soil is well able to drain
- Do not harvest under wet conditions

Recommendations for managing verticillium wilt include:

- Uproot and burn all infected plants
- Avoid excessive irrigation as this will influence the development of the disease
- Avoid spreading the disease
- Ensure plants get sufficient nutrition

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via [http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional\\_bulletin.html](http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional_bulletin.html)

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](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm)

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