



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JULY

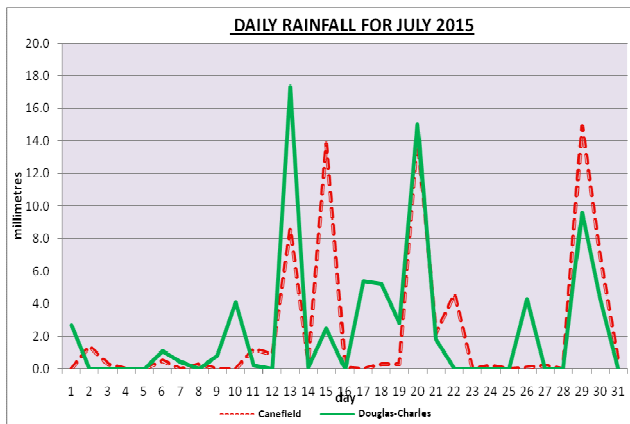


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	72.0mm	77.6mm
30 year normal	218.8 to 315.1mm	199.1 to 273.2mm
Wet Days (≥1.0mm)	9	13
Temperature	29.4°C	28.4°C
30 year average	28.9°C	28.9°C
Maximum Temperature	33.6°C (26 th)	30.8°C (28 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.9°C (19 th)	23.0°C (18 th)
Relative Humidity	61%	74%
Maximum wind gust	72km/h	59km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 18mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Canefield was exceptionally dry with rainfall about 29% of the mean. The month’s highest daily rainfall total was 14.9mm recorded on the 29th. This is the 4th consecutive month of below-normal rainfall.

Douglas-Charles was extremely dry with rainfall just 33% of the mean. The highest rainfall total recorded was 17.3mm on the 13th. The first and last weeks were the driest.

While some tropical waves moved across the area this month, they did not produce much rainfall due to the dry atmospheric conditions.

Farmers, particularly in the western regions, are being affected by the inadequate rainfall amounts. Those in the interior have fared better with rainfall hindering land preparation activities such as tilling and ploughing. No significant crop losses were reported which may be due to adaptation measures employed.

There was an infestation of snails and slugs in the north east due to favorable weather conditions and bad farm practices. And while the dry conditions have inhibited fungal problems, Powdery mildew was observed in cucurbitaceous crops in the higher elevations as a result of warm and humid conditions there. An increase of *Black Sigatoka* and white flies in the central region was also noticed.

Proper housing provided livestock some relief from the hot and dry conditions at the Government Livestock Farm but pasture grasses and forage had to be collected from other areas to provide feed for them.

A two day simulation exercise in Avian Influenza was conducted in the central and south regions. Special attention was given to the changing migratory patterns of birds due to unusual weather and climatic events in their habitat.

2015 HURRICANE NAMES: Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda

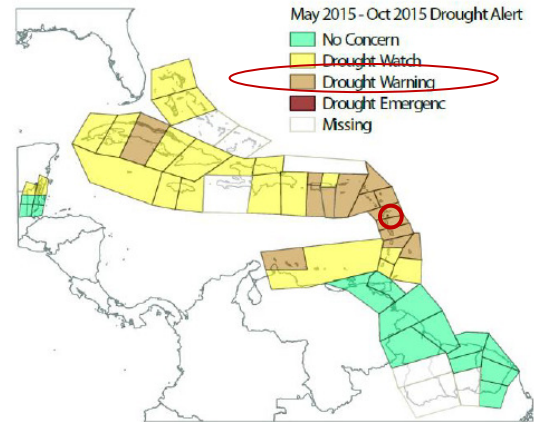
CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR AUGUST

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	244.3mm	255.4mm
-highest total	539.4mm (2007)	457.3mm (2010)
-lowest total	102.0mm (1984)	80.1mm (1984)
Temperature	28.9°C	28.8°C
-maximum	35.4°C (2005)	34.3°C (1996)
-minimum	21.7°C (1996)	20.9°C (1992)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	40%	10%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	0%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for August

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

El Nino is intensifying and impactful drought concerns have increased. Protect your resources, conserve water.



REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS

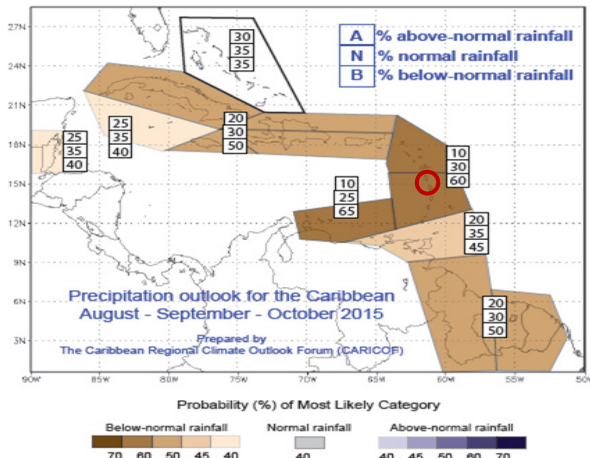


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: Aug-Sep-Oct 2015

- Dry conditions with fewer wet days and wet spells than normal are expected to continue towards the end of October. There is 10% chance of above normal, 30% normal and 60% below normal rainfall amounts
- Air temperature expected to be above normal.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are advised to adhere to good agricultural practices that will reduce infestation levels of pest and diseases that thrive in present weather conditions. Do remain vigilant in the fight against the spread of the deadly *Black Sigatoka* disease.

Livestock farmers are encouraged to establish plant species such as trichantera and mulberry as an additional food source for animals. This will also help to mitigate negative effects of drought on pastures.

Do continue to harvest rain for water use and conservation.

We are still in the hurricane season and practices such as clearing of storm drains should be maintained.

The plant protection and quarantine unit will host Brazilian consultant next month to examine components of the red palm mite project. Focus will be placed on experimental plots to investigate fungus that is a biological control to red palm mite. Agro-met data will be used in the project for pest dynamics.

DLQ: 6th ● NM: 14th ● FQ: 22nd ○ FM: 29th

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via 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 metoffice@cwdom.dm or aictudoa@gmail.com

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