



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 6 Issue 2

May 2017

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR MAY 2017

Parameter (May 2017)	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	62.8mm(normal)	235.9mm (normal)
Normal	44.8 to 116.9mm	139.1 to 262.9mm
Wettest day	8th (15.8mm)	10th (40.2mm)
Wet Days (≥ 1.0 mm)	6 days	17 days
Average Temperature	29.1°C	28.1°C
30 year average	28.8°C	28.0°C
Maximum Temperature	33.5°C (23rd)	31.0°C (23rd, 24th & 25th)
Minimum Temperature	21.9°C (7th)	21.5°C (12th)
Relative Humidity	64%	75%
Maximum wind gust	54km/h (23rd)	50km/h (7th, 26th & 30th)
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs
Normal		8hrs

Table 1: May 2017 weather parameters

DECEMBER 2016 TO MAY 2017 DRY SEASON

Rainfall accumulated at both the Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports was above normal. Above to normal temperatures were recorded at both stations.

December 2016 - May 2017 Dry Season CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL (30YEARS)

ACCUMULATED RAINFALL

	CANEFIELD AIRPORT	DOUGLAS-CHARLES AIRPORT
Normal	310.6 to 564.6mm	620.4 to 1026.3mm
Dec 2016 – May 2017 Total	805.8mm (above normal)	1061.2mm(above normal)

TEMPERATURE

Average Maximum Normal	30.1°C to 30.7°C	28.7°C to 29.1°C
Dec 2016 – May 2017 Average Maximum	31.0°C (above normal)	29.1°C (normal)
Average Mean Normal	26.9°C to 27.4°C	26.5°C to 26.9°C
Dec 2016 – May 2017 Mean	27.3°C (normal)	26.8°C (normal)
Average Minimum Normal	22.1°C to 22.6°C	22.3°C to 22.5°C
Dec 2016 – May 2017 Average Minimum	22.5°C (normal)	22.8°C (above normal)

Table 2 :Dry season summary

Normal rainfall totals and air temperatures were recorded at both the Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports. Weak unstable conditions dominated the weather conditions throughout the month. Two tropical waves contributed to the month's rainfall total.

DAILY RAINFALL FOR MAY 2017

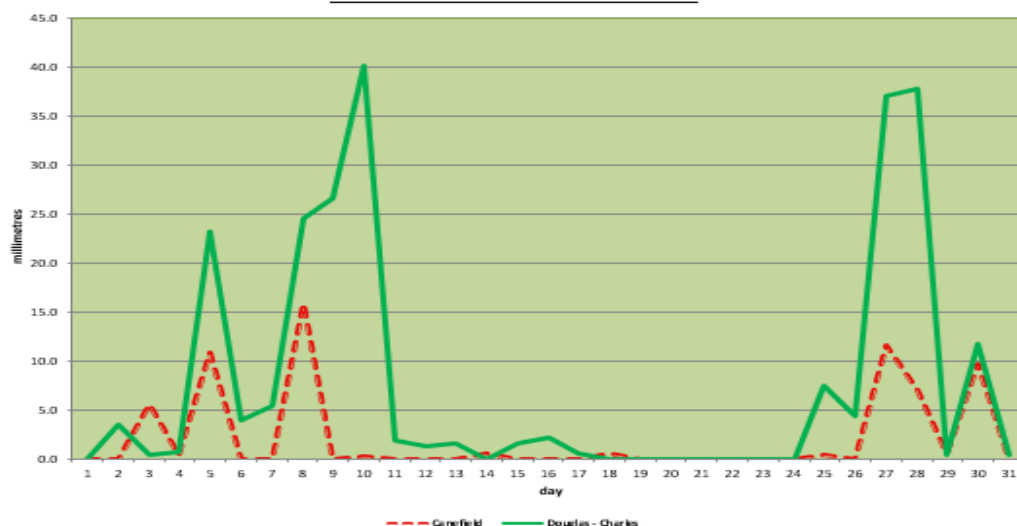


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

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Farming Outlook

- ⇒ The weather conditions were favourable during the month for agricultural activities such as establishment, harvesting and maintenance of crops. High winds had minimal impact on farms for the month.
- ⇒ Crops established for the month included: Ginger, yam, dasheen, sweet potato, tarnia, pumpkin and mixed vegetables. Soursop and pawpaw were some of the main tree crops purchased from agricultural stations.
- ⇒ Crops harvested for the period were mainly: yam, vegetables, sweet potato, white potato and mangoes. Limes and passionfruit were also harvested but in minimal quantities. With the ongoing initiative for the export of dasheen to the US and UK there is a high demand for the crop.
- ⇒ Greenhouse farmers received assistance from the Chinese Agriculture Technical Mission. These farmers are constructing and undertaking repairs such as coverings of their structures. Farmers have made use of such intervention as cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and lettuce are being established in greenhouses for the month.



Photo credit: Ministry of Agriculture

- ⇒ Field reports indicated that with the present weather conditions pest and disease infestation is on a low level. However, White flies were prevalent during dry sunny conditions. Blossom End Rot and Fungal Diseases were also reported.
- ⇒ A spray cycle conducted during the period for banana and plantain to control the Black Sigatoka Disease. This resulted in low infestation levels. The Giant African Snails were spotted in other communities and may have been as a result of heavy flood waters from the river where the snail has been quarantined. There was

a shortage on snail baits.

- ⇒ Watermelon showed signs of fungal disease and a new variety of water melon is being tested.
- ⇒ Farmers need to improve their agronomic practices especially weeding and fertilising on a timely basis.
- ⇒ Citrus production was below average. There were reports of dying trees and low yields.
- ⇒ In the central agricultural region the farmer field school conducted for White potato has ended. An evaluation of an organic system vs. Caribbean chemicals tech pack was done. Results indicated the tuber formation was good, however, the size of tubers was poor. In addition, farmers in the north region reported better yields than the central region.
- ⇒ Citrus plants should be available for distribution by mid July. Avocado, mango, Nutmeg, clove, cocoa, passionfruit and exotic tree crop plantlets are currently available at agricultural stations.



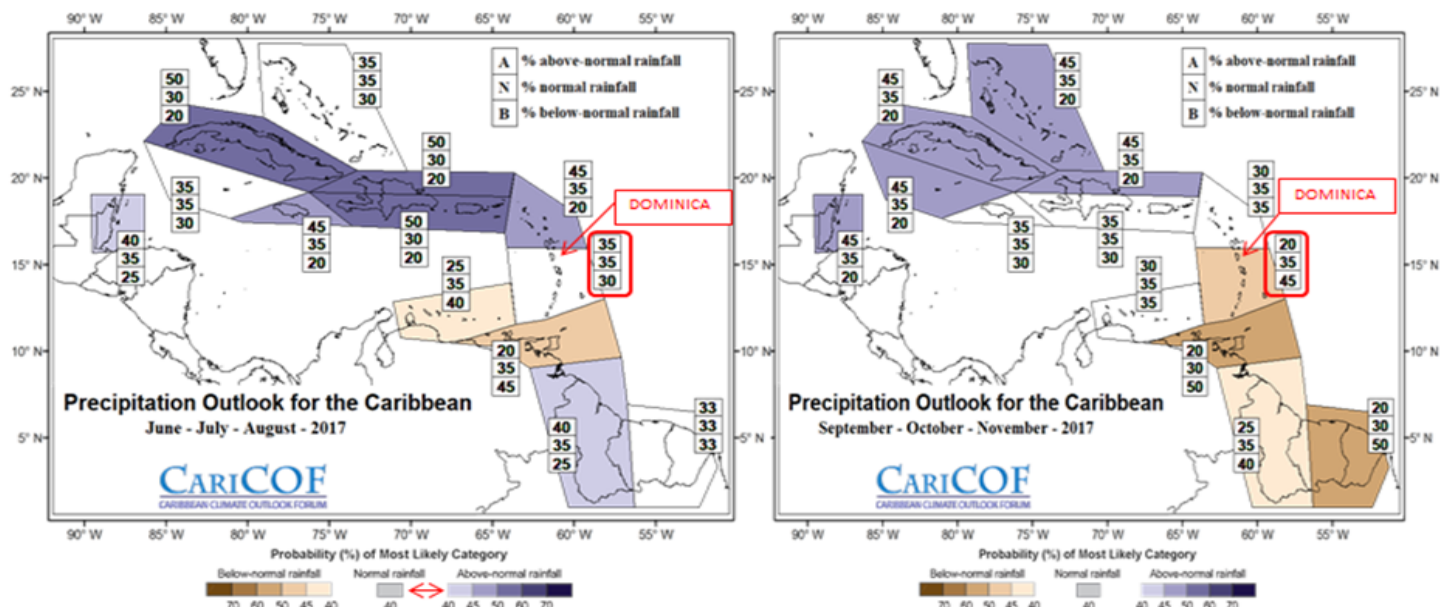
Lime tree



Citrus plantlets

- ⇒ There was a bush fire which affected farms in the central region.

Rainfall Outlook



Forecast:

Slightly above to normal rainfall amounts are expected for June-July-August (Normal range for June to August- approximately 400 to 600mm).

Below to normal amounts are expected for September-October-November (Normal range for September to November - approximately 600 to 900mm)

An increase in the number of wet days ($\geq 1.0\text{mm}$) (53-76 days), 7-day wet and very wet spells (2-7 spells) frequency (*medium to high confidence*) can be expected for the season.

There are no drought concerns for Dominica at this time.

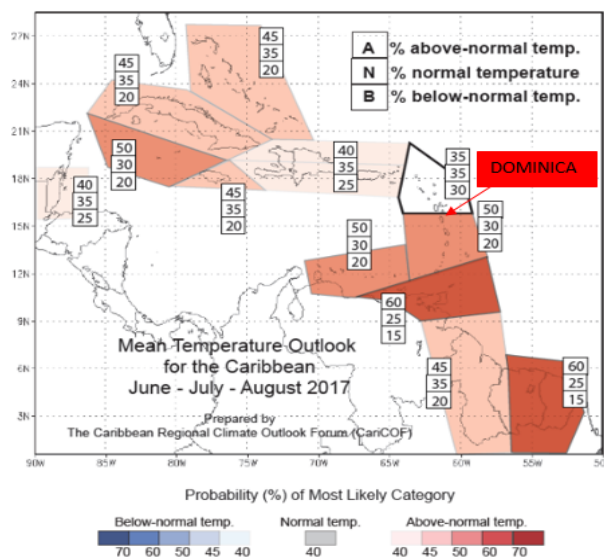
Temperature Outlook

FORECAST: Maximum (day-time) and minimum (night-time) temperatures averaged over the period June-July-August are forecast to be above to normal. Since temperatures are high and humidity is steadily increasing, it is expected to feel increasingly hot towards August.

There is an 80% chance for at least 14 heatwave days and a 70% chance of at least 30 heatwave days for the season, June to November 2017. Most heat wave days occur during August to October.

NOTE: This scenario becomes more likely and heat more severe, if a moderate to strong El Niño manifests by August.

June-July-August: (Maximum temperature normal range: 30-32°C) (Mean temperature normal range: 27-29°C) (Minimum temperature normal range: 24-25°C)

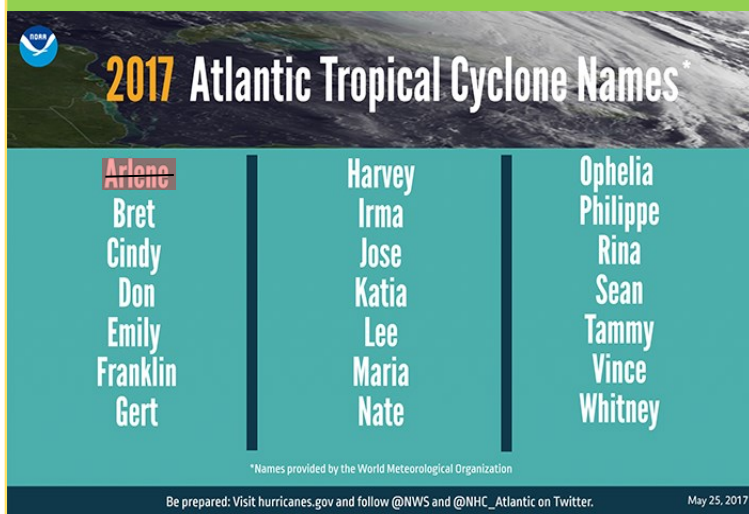


2017 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

June 1st to November 30th is designated as the official period for the Atlantic Hurricane Season. This year, forecasters at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are predicting a 45% chance of an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane season, a 35% chance of a near-normal season and only a 20% chance of a below-normal season. An average season produces 12 named storms of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

NOAA is predicting a 70 percent likelihood of:

- ◆ 11 to 17 Named Storms (winds of 39 mph or higher)
- ◆ 5 to 9 Hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher)
- ◆ 2 to 4 Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher)



CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JUNE

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall normal	106.6—198.8mm	132.0—229.0mm
-highest total	381.3mm	424.3mm (1987)
-lowest total	54.6mm (1985)	43.1mm (1989)
Temperature	29.0°C	28.5°C
-maximum	34.8°C (1991)	33.7°C (1985)
-minimum	21.5°C (2009)	21.0°C (1985)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	80%	40%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	27%	7%

Table 3 climate summary for June

FARMER'S OUTLOOK

- ◆ Regardless of the seasonal outlook, it only takes one storm to significantly disrupt our life.
- ◆ The Dominica Meteorological Service continue to advise the public that less focus should be placed on whether the island is under a tropical storm or hurricane watch or warning and greater attention must be given to the local hazards of flooding both inland and coastal, landslides and strong winds.
- ◆ All must finalize preparations such as: effecting repairs to compromised buildings that are in use, clearing of blocked drains and waterways around homes and farms, remove overhanging tree branches, developing a family communications plan, building an emergency supply kit for your home and knowing where your community shelters are located.
- ◆ It is important to remain vigilant in order to protect yourself and your family.
- ◆ Farmers need to pay close attention to the weather and can contact their extension officer for advice.
- ◆ There is an ongoing invasive species and cassava projects. Further details will be provided in a subsequent bulletin.
- ◆ Dasheen farmers should keep in touch with their extension officer and DEXIA to take advantage of the marketing of dasheen.
- ◆ There is a planned seminar on export regulations to the US in June.

MOON PHASES

FQ:01st
 FM:09th
 LQ:17th
 NM:24th

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-bulletins/agriculture/>

This bulletin is prepared by the Dominica Meteorological Service with support from the Ministry of Agriculture. Feedback on this bulletin should be forwarded to metoffice@cwdom.dm or aictudoa@gmail.com. Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline: 447 5555