



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR MARCH 2014

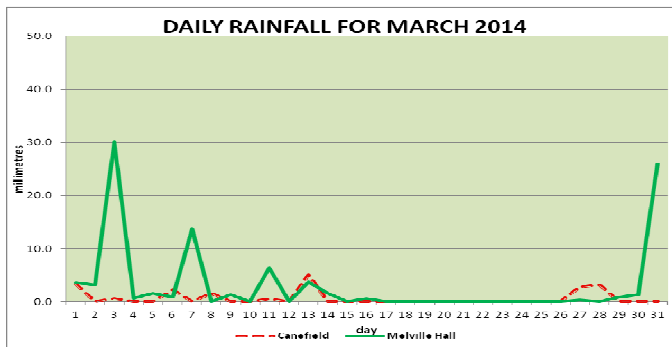


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

The Atlantic high pressure system continued to influence weather conditions throughout this month resulting in conditions characteristic of our 'dry' season. Below normal rainfall was recorded at the two airport stations; however, Melville Hall's final total climbed to above normal on the 31st when some 26.0mm was recorded.

At the Canefield Airport a total of 19.3mm of rainfall was recorded which is 39% of the mean. The highest daily total recorded was 5.1mm on the 13th. There was a 13 days dry spell during the second and third weeks. A record low hourly relative humidity of 27% was recorded on the 24th.

Melville Hall Airport recorded a monthly rainfall total of 95.9mm which is 85% of the mean. The highest daily total recorded was 30.1mm on the 3rd. A 15 days dry spell was recorded from mid-month.

There have been reports of leaf scorching, fruit and flower dropping on farms including greenhouses in the western regions as a result of the warm temperatures and little rainfall. In the southern region, there is an

abundance of Irish potatoes and vegetables including lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes and broccoli in spite of the dry conditions. There has been little to no establishment of new crops this month and farmers engaged in land preparation for the start of the rains.

No new outbreaks of insect pests and diseases were reported. However, Army worms in the southern region are thriving on Irish potato, cucumber and cabbage leaves.

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	19.3mm	95.9mm
30 year average	49.0mm	112.8mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	6	11
Temperature	27.0°C	26.3°C
30 year average	26.9°C	26.4°C
Maximum Temperature	32.2°C (24 th)	29.9°C (24 th)
Minimum Temperature	20.4°C (7 th)	19.3°C (10 th)
Relative Humidity	59%	71%
Maximum wind gust	54km/h	50km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	9hrs 06mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR APRIL

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall 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	66%	27%

Table 2 Climate summary for April

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

As the dry season continues, we will see the alternation of sunny and showery days.

The high probability of 5 and 10 day dry spells calls farmers to continue to manage water efficiently for irrigation and other farm activities.

Practices that will reduce stress and prevent dehydration in livestock and grazing animals should continue. They should be provided with adequate water, shelter and alternative feedings if the need arises.

In as much as the risk of pest and diseases is reduced round this time, farmers are asked to remain vigilant and to explore a few of the control measures below. These include:

- manual removal of larvae and pupae
- the use of traps
- pesticide application

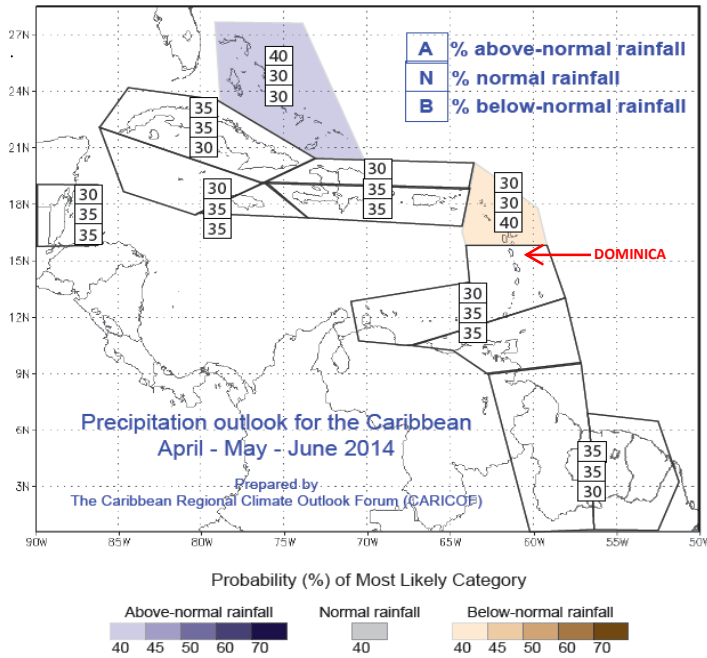


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: April-May-June 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

- Rainfall mostly unpredictable.
- Below normal to normal rainfall is expected with 70% confidence.
- Normal to above-normal air temperature with 80% confidence.
- Mild and dry, becoming wetter and hotter by May.
- There is a 30% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being normal and a 35% chance of being below normal.

Farmers in areas where Army worms infest should ensure that weeds in the environment are kept to a minimum. This seems to keep the worms at bay and reduce amounts. In some cases organic pesticides available have not been effective in eradicating the worms.

Moon Phases

FQ: 7th FM: 15th
 LQ: 22nd NM: 29th

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

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

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