



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 2 Issue 5

August 2013

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR AUGUST 2013

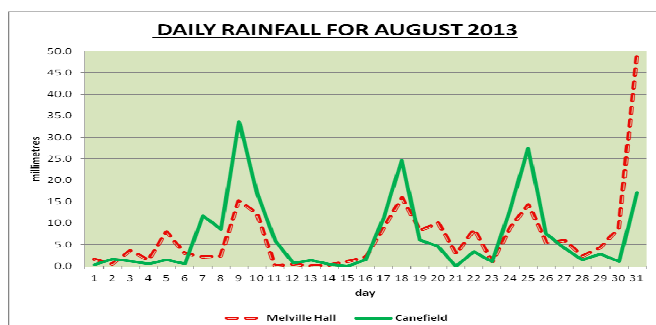


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Weak unstable conditions were the month's main contributors to the island's rainfall total. Four tropical waves traversed the area producing roughly a quarter of the rainfall total.

The Canefield airport recorded below normal rainfall this month. A total of 211.9mm was recorded and this represents 87% of the monthly mean. The highest daily total recorded was 33.7 on the 9th. There were 24 rainfall days and that's 4 days above the normal with no dry spells.

Rainfall total recorded at the Melville Hall airport was also below normal. A total of 208.4mm was recorded and this is 82% of the monthly mean. The highest daily total of 48.7mm was recorded on the 31st. Twenty-six (26) rainfall days were recorded and this to was 4 days above normal. There was a 4 days dry spell at the start of the month's second dekad.

The weather for the month was generally favourable for the farming community. Farmers took the opportunity to prepare their lands and establish their fields. The main crops established for the month were dasheen, yams, plantain and sweet potatoes. Vegetable

establishments were observed in most of the regions with a higher number in greenhouse establishments to that of open field establishments. The hot pepper program is ongoing. There were limited reports of problems with the birds this month. Harvesting took place and farmers were encouraged to treat fields for the flower moth, mites and aphids. In the northeast region, meetings were held for the Women Onion Group who has started land clearing activity. The optimal time for planting onions is mid September to mid January. Harvesting of tree crops such as cocoa, nutmeg and coffee took place in the south region.

Continued attention was given to the Black Sigatoka Disease. In the south, a farm demonstration was done on de-leaving and farm visits were done to explore market opportunities. In the northeast, the spray cycle for the Black Sigatoka Disease has ended and farmers are adhering to advice. There has been a positive impact especially in plantain production and harvesting. Since the cut back of the Citrus Greening eradication activity in the northeast region, there has been limited reports of new infestations. Weeds were a problem confronted by many farmers. The Tannia Burning Disease was also reported.

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR AUGUST

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	211.9mm	208.4mm
30 year average	244.3mm	255.4mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	24	26
Temperature	28.9°C	28.8°C
30 year average	28.9°C	28.8°C
Maximum Temperature	35.0°C (17 th)	32.2°C (30 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.2°C (11 th)	22.9°C (10 th)
Relative Humidity	67%	77%
Maximum wind gust	57km/h	59km/h

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	253.7mm	319.1mm
-highest total	434.4mm (1996)	744.5mm (2004)
-lowest total	31.9mm (2012)	94.3mm (2012)
Temperature	28.7°C	28.6°C
-maximum	34.9°C (2005)	34.3°C (2012)
-minimum	20.7°C (1997)	20.0°C (1992)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	53%	33%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	7%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for September

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

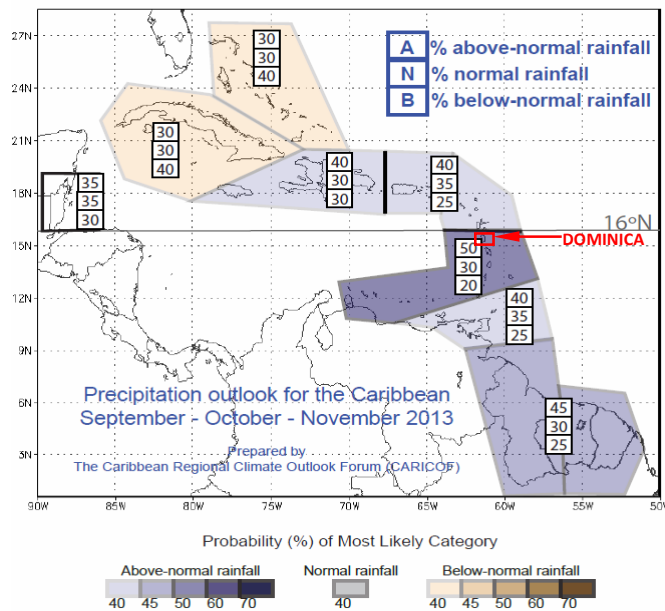


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: September-October-November 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall)

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

There is a scheduled soil conservation workshop on 0.5 acres of yam plot in Bense and a composting activity of bananas in Londonderry. There are also other farm demonstration workshops in all agricultural regions. The school agricultural program will commence in the month of September.

Moon Phases: ●NM: 5th ●FQ: 12th ○FM: 19th ●LQ: 27th

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 Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline: 447 5555

✚ Above to normal rainfall and air temperature is expected with an eighty percent (80%) confidence for rainfall and a seventy percent (70%) confidence for air temperature.

✚ There is a 50% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 30% chance of being normal and a 20% chance of being below normal.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of this planting season and establish their vegetable plots as there will be a high demand for vegetables in October and November.

The Black Sigatoka Disease continues to be an issue and farmers as urged to do their necessary agronomic practices such as de-leaving and nutrient application. The citrus greening surveillance is still ongoing and farmers are encouraged to be vigilant.

Farmers are encouraged to establish proper drainage and weed control is important.

The Disaster Risk Mitigation for Agricultural projects is ongoing with trainings being conducted for extension officers and farmers. A participatory approach to risk reduction in two vulnerable communities is being undertaken.

HURRICANE TIPS

If your animals are not housed move them to elevated regions, store at least one week's supply of feed, medication and clean fresh water.