



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 2 Issue 8

November 2013

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2013

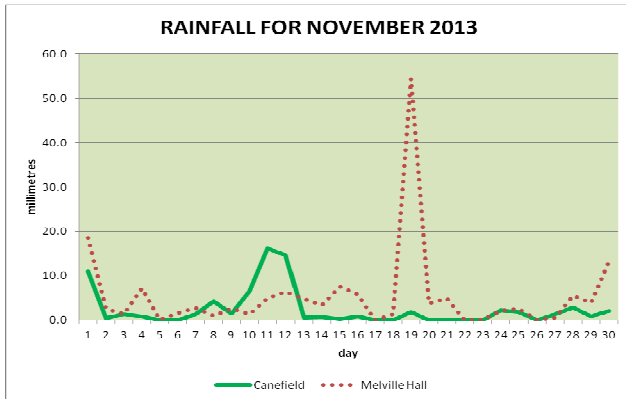


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Below normal rainfall totals were recorded at the Canefield and Melville Hall Airports this month.

At Canefield, 73.7mm of rainfall was recorded; that is approximately 38% of the monthly mean. The maximum daily total recorded was 16.2mm on the 11th during the passage of a surface trough. There were 16 dry days which is normal for Canefield with a 6 day dry spell spanning the second and third weeks. Averaged air temperature was 27.9°C which is 0.1° above the mean. The maximum temperature is a new record for November and breaks the 33.7°C recorded in 1997.

November is normally the wettest month at Melville hall; however, this month's rainfall was 48% of the mean. A total of 164.4mm was recorded. The maximum daily total of 54.4mm was as a result of instability associated with a weak trough. There were no significant dry spells. The average air temperature recorded was 27.6°C. The highest temperature recorded was 31.1°C on the 11th and 28th while the lowest recorded was 21.5°C on the 19th

Usually, November rainfall is as a result of tropical systems in the area and poses a threat to agricultural production. This year, despite rainfall totals being below normal, the amount seemed adequate for farming purposes. Farmers have reported that crop establishment and maintenance proceeded as normal. The long warm days and cool short nights are ideal for growing crops such as Irish potatoes, sorrel and pigeon peas.

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR NOVEMBER

| Parameter | Canefield Airport | Melville-Hall Airport |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Rainfall Total | 73.7mm | 164.4mm |
| 30 year average | 194.3mm | 348.6mm |
| Wet Days (>1.0mm) | 14 | 24 |
| Temperature | 27.9°C | 27.6°C |
| 30 year average | 27.8°C | 27.4°C |
| Maximum Temperature | 33.8°C (21 st) | 31.1°C (11 th , 28 th) |
| Minimum Temperature | 21.7°C (17 th) | 21.5°C (19 th) |
| Relative Humidity | 67% | 77% |
| Maximum wind gust | 39km/h | 59km/h |
| Average daily sunshine hours | - | 7hrs 48mins |

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

| Parameter | Canefield Airport | Melville Hall Airport |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Rainfall | 102.2mm | 219.2mm |
| -highest total | 213.4mm (1998) | 631.4mm (2001) |
| -lowest total | 23.8mm (2010) | 91.2mm (2009) |

| Parameter | Canefield Airport | Melville Hall Airport |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Temperature | 26.9°C | 26.6°C |
| -maximum | 32.4°C (1997/2003) | 31.1°C (1987) |
| -minimum | 18.0°C (1991) | 16.9°C (1991) |
| Chance of 5 day dry spell | 93% | 31% |
| Chance of 10 day dry spell | 25% | 7% |

Table 1 Climate summary for December

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

As we move into the dry season, the coming months continue to be characterized by long warm days and short cool nights. These conditions are ideal for the growing of certain crops like Irish potato, pigeon peas and sorrel.

Irish potato growers should remember to:

- Do land preparation two weeks before planting. Use a pre-emergent weedicide for weed control before, to provide the plant enough ground cover.
- Allow the seeds to sprout before planting. Remove all white sprouts and leave the purple ones.
- Cut large potatoes so that each bit has at least two sprouts and allow the cut surface to heal before planting to avoid rotting.
- Flowering should start two months after planting. One month later (3 months after planting), the leaves will start to wither and the stems may topple over. At that time the crop is ready for harvest
- Harvest under dry conditions. Store the crop in a cool dry place immediately after harvest. Spread the potatoes in a well ventilated area in shallow layers for two to three weeks to allow the crop to cure properly before offering the crop for sale.

There is reduced risk of pest and disease outbreaks in crops and heat stress in animals.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

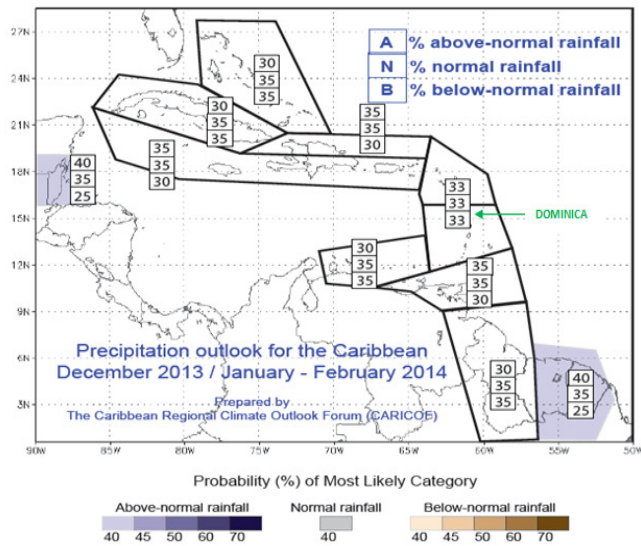


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: December 2013/ January-February 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

- Rainfall totals somewhat unpredictable this period with equal chances of above normal, normal or below normal amounts (33%).
- 60% confidence for above normal temperature.



Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.2>

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



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN