



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JULY 2014

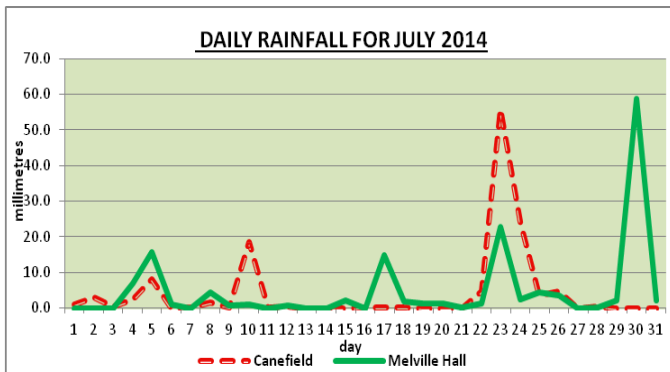


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Tropical waves once again brought some relief to the island producing significant amounts of rainfall. In spite of this monthly rainfall totals continued to be below normal amounts. While the region saw an increase in the passage of these waves, only a few had any impact on the island. Dust haze continued to be a significant feature throughout the month.

At the Canefield Airport, 129.9mm of rainfall was recorded which is 52% of the mean. The highest daily total recorded was 55.8mm on the 23rd as a tropical wave, the remnant of tropical depression #2, affected the area. Rainfall days were about half of the normal number. There was an 11 days dry spell during the second and third dekad (10 day period).

Melville Hall Airport recorded a rainfall total of 149.9mm which is 63% of the mean. This is the fourth consecutive month of below normal rainfall. The highest daily total recorded was 58.7mm on the 30th as another tropical wave moved across the region. There were 17 rainfall days which is 5 days below the monthly average with a 4-day dry spell during the second dekad.

Farmers across most of the island reported sufficient rainfall for the month in which they were able to establish new crops and apply fertilizers. However, drier than normal conditions in other parts such as the west and north-eastern regions reported that leaf-curling occurred in tomato leaves and there is stunted growth and lower yields in banana bunches.

The intense rainfall events associated with the passage of tropical waves resulted in a few landslides but there were no significant crop losses. It has also brought about an increase in the number of Giant African snails, in the incidence of *Black Sigatoka*, in fungal infestations in culinary herbs and a reduction in Dasheen Mosaic Virus.

| Parameter | Canefield Airport | Melville-Hall Airport |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rainfall Total | 129.9mm | 149.9mm |
| 30 year average | 251.4mm | 237.2mm |
| Wet Days (>1.0mm) | 10 | 17 |
| Temperature | 29.0°C | 28.6°C |
| 30 year average | 28.9°C | 28.6°C |
| Maximum Temperature | 33.2°C (31 st) | 31.2°C (17 th) |
| Minimum Temperature | 23.1°C (9 th) | 22.6°C (30 th) |
| Relative Humidity | 61% | 73% |
| Maximum wind gust | 43km/h | 67km/h |
| Average daily sunshine hours | - | 8hrs 00mins |

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

| Parameter | Canefield Airport | Melville Hall 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 | 43% | 10% |
| Chance of 10 day dry spell | 0% | 0% |

Table 2 Climate summary for August

SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

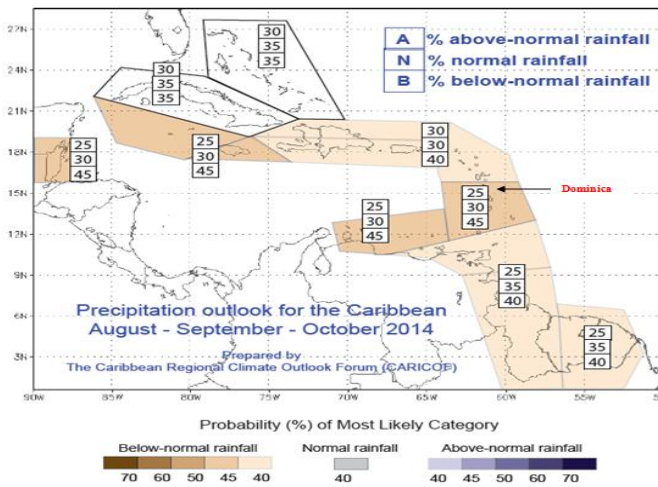


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: August-September-October 2014

- Below normal to normal rainfall is expected with 75% confidence.
- There is 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, 30% chance of being normal and 45% chance of being below normal.
- Wet season expected to be drier than normal. As a result, less water will be available for use in the dry season.
- Normal to above-normal air temperature with 70% confidence.

2014 HURRICANE NAMES Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred

☉ FQ: 4th ☪ FM: 10th ☾ LQ: 17nd ☀ NM: 25th

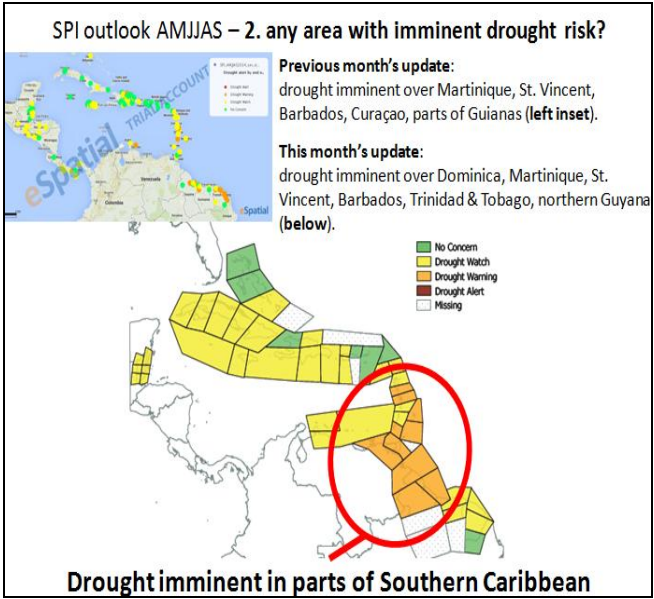


Figure 3 Drought Outlook to end of October

- Drought conditions imminent for Dominica to end of October.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

The conservation and strict management of water continues to be the guiding principles this period. Activities to be considered include:

- Water harvesting from rainfall or pumping from rivers or streams
- Proper planning in terms of crop selection
- Assess soil moisture before applying fertilizers
- Weed around plants and not total area to reduce evaporation

However, weather events such as tropical waves are sometimes high rainfall events resulting in flash flooding and land/ mudslides. As such, ensure that there is efficient drainage on farms.

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