



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JUNE 2017

A series of tropical waves and trough systems affected the island and contributed to its monthly rainfall total.

Above normal rainfall total and normal air temperature was recorded at the Douglas-Charles Airport.

Normal rainfall total was recorded at the Canefield Airport with below normal air temperature .

Higher intensity rainfall occurred along the eastern and central parts of the island resulting in higher rainfall amounts.

Gusty winds were also recorded throughout the month.

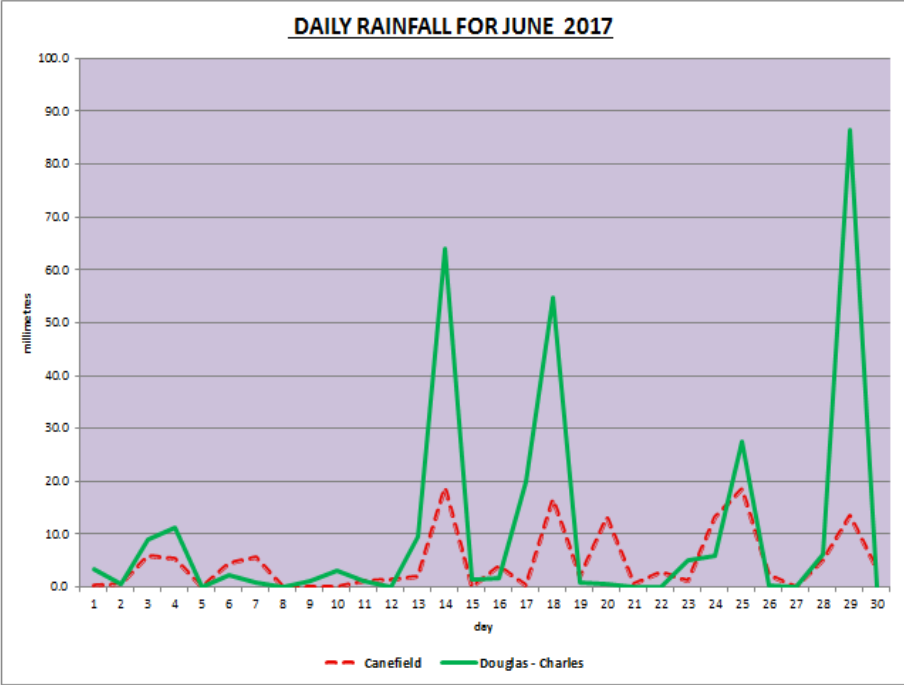


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Parameter (June 2017)	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	142.6mm(normal)	317.3mm (above normal)
Normal	106.6—198.8mm	32.0—229.0mm
Wettest day	14th (18.8mm)	29th (86.4mm)
Wet Days (≥1.0mm)	20 days	18 days
Average Temperature	28.7°C	28.3°C
30 year average	29.0°C	28.5°C
Highest Maximum Temperature	34.4°C (30th)	31.7°C (27th)
Lowest Minimum Temperature	22.9°C (22nd)	23.1°C (15th)
Average Relative Humidity	71%	76%
Maximum wind gust	48km/h (21st & 26th)	100km/h (25th)
Average daily sunshine hours	-	5hrs 48mins
Normal		7hrs 30mins

Table 1: June 2017 weather parameters

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ON THE FARM

Crops established for the period were tree crops, vegetables and root crops.

Predominant crops harvested included dasheen, sweet potatoes, tania, yams, plantain, banana, passionfruit, pineapple, apricots, limes and vegetables.

Pest and disease issues affected several crops.

SALE

Farmers who need planting material can now visit their various agricultural stations.

Available:

Citrus
 Avocados
 Mango
 Coffee
 Cocoa,
 Passionfruit,
 Nutmegs
 Sugar apple,
 Sour-sop and Sweet-sop.

NEW

⇒ Caribbean Agro-Climatic Bulletin of the CariSAM

The Division of Agriculture would like to encourage all technicians, researchers, extension officers, farmers, producers and all interested to look out for the New regional bulletin prepared by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in collaboration with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). As of May 2017, the previous regional monthly CAMI bulletin transitioned into the Caribbean Agro-Climatic Bulletin of the CariSAM.

The link to the bulletin is:

<https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/>

⇒ The CariSAM Portal

This is an interface between Meteorologist and Climatologist and the Caribbean Agriculture Community. This initiative seeks to dialog and share knowledge, information and experiences in the area of Agro-Meteorology. The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CariSAM) is an online platform which host forums, provides online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises.

The link to the portal is:

www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb

ONGOING INITIATIVES

- The germplasm initiative continues to address crops such as sweet potato, ginger, plantain and turmeric.
- The Ministry of Agriculture continued to work with dasheen producers to increase production.
- The Minister of Agriculture indicated that at least four containers of dasheen are needed monthly to meet export demands. There is a need for increased production.
- The Chinese Agriculture Mission continued to support greenhouse farmers by examining challenges with farmers and doing follow ups to evaluate the utilization of greenhouse material. The greenhouse subsector continues to play a pivotal role in safeguarding sensitive crops such as vegetables from the vagaries of the elements of the weather.
- Cassava has been identified as a crop that is resilient to climate change. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture has placed emphasis on this crop and has launched a project to address some of the issues in the value chain. The name of the project is: **The Cassava Development Market Assessment and Technology and the Sustainable Approaches to Agribusiness and Value Chain Development for Roots and Tubers in the Caribbean**, funded by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). These projects are geared at increasing cassava production .

SEASONAL FORECAST FOR JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

Rainfall Outlook

Forecast:

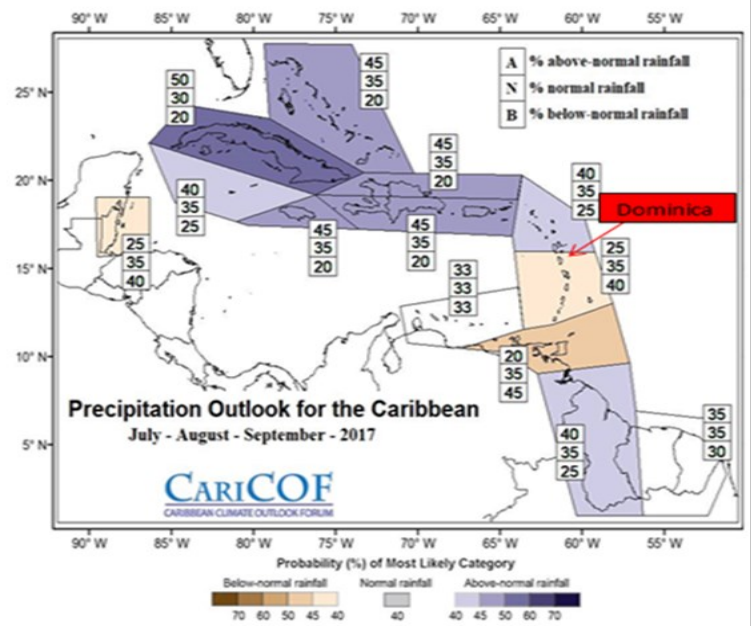
⇒ Drier than usual to usual conditions overall is forecast for the season July-August-September 2017. The forecast for the season October-November-December 2017, which is usually the wettest part of the year, is for wetter than usual to usual conditions overall. Chances of extremely dry or extremely wet conditions are quite low at this time (75% confidence).

Probability for June-July-August 2017

- 25% chance of above normal
- 35% chance normal
- 40% chance of below normal

⇒ An increase in the number of wet days ($\geq 1.0\text{mm}$) (*medium to high confidence*), 7-day wet and very wet spells (*low confidence*) is expected.

⇒ There is no short term (April to September 2017) and long term (December 2016 to November 2017) drought concerns for Dominica at this time. Please continue to monitor the situation in the coming months.

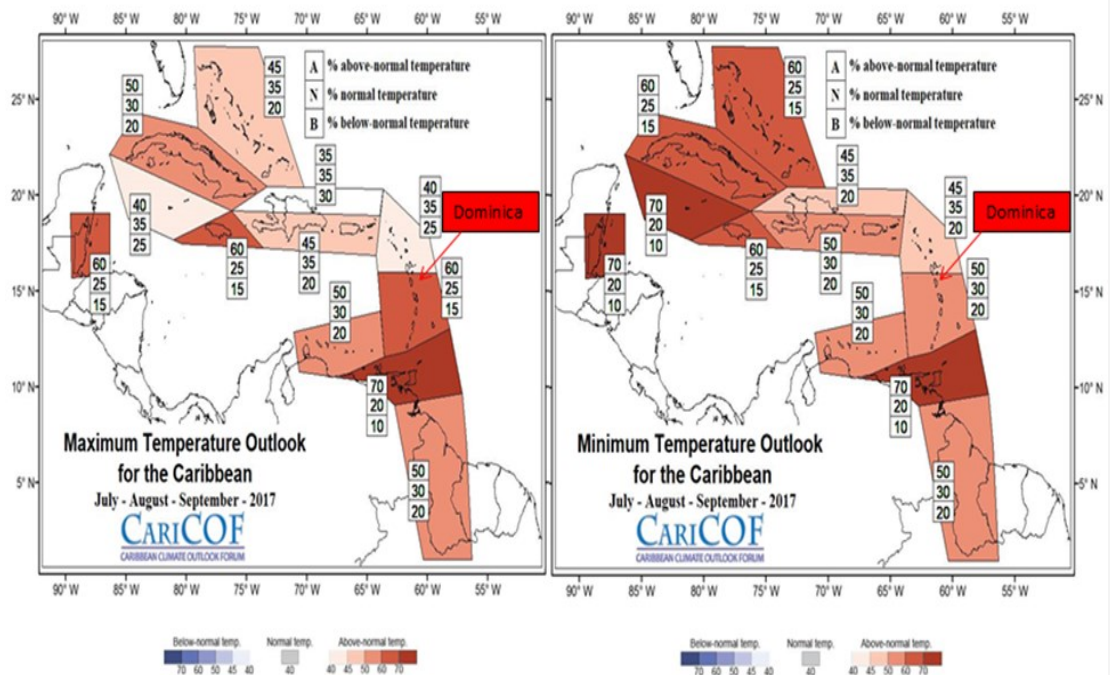


Temperature Outlook

Probability:

Maximum/ day-time temperature Probability:60% chance of above normal; 25% chance normal; 15% chance of below normal

Minimum/ night-time temperature Probability:50% chance of above normal; 30% chance normal; 20% chance of below normal




Maximum (day-time) and minimum (night-time) temperatures averaged over the period July-August-September are forecast to be above to normal. Temperatures across the Caribbean are forecast to be uncomfortably hot for many, with high humidity and a high chance for heat waves until the end of October.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JULY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall normal	218.8 to 315.1mm	199.1 to 273.2mm
-highest total	393.3mm (2010)	406.6mm (2010)
-lowest total	45.1mm (1994)	57.2mm (1975)
Average Temperature	28.9C	28.6°C
-highest maximum	34.5°C (1995)	33.2C (1995)
-lowest minimum	20.5°C (1989)	20.7°C (1989 & 1993)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	30%	20%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	0%	3%

Table 2: July monthly summary

MOON PHASES

 FQ:01st, 30th

 FM:09th

 LQ:16th

 NM:23rd

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

- ⇒ Water availability for agriculture should not be a concern for the season.
- ⇒ Increase in day and night time temperatures may occur over the next few months. Guard against heat stress for livestock and crops by;
 - * Ensuring livestock are kept cool by establishing/ locating shading for livestock such as: cows, sheep and goats.
 - * Ensuring cooling systems such as fans are in place and good ventilation available for poultry houses.
 - * Keeping irrigation equipment ready to apply water as necessary to cropping systems.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS

As the agricultural community enters the second month of the hurricane season, vigilance and preparation must be priority for farmers and producers.

- construct drains along contour lines on slopes
- maintain drains free of debris
- retrofit all farm structures
- prune trees and branches that are directly over farm structures
- during a hurricane warning, *remove and secure covering of greenhouses/nurseries and disconnect all electrical fixtures on farms.*
- where ruminants are not housed move them to more elevated regions
- *collect and secure eggs and other livestock products*
- *secure beehive boxes and take into buildings*

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-bulletins/agriculture/>. **National bulletins:** <http://divisionofagriculture.gov.dm/publications/agro-meteorological-bulletin>

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