



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

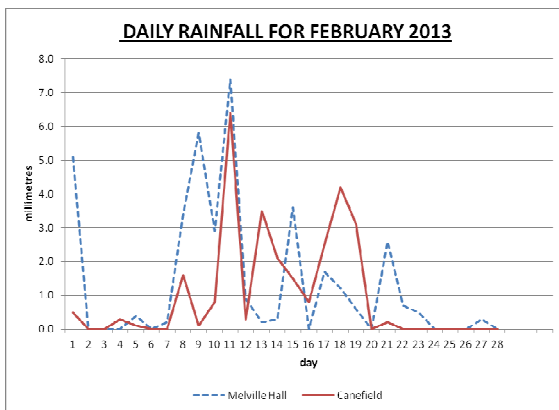


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall Airports

The Atlantic High pressure persisted throughout the month bringing in some dry and breezy conditions.

28.0mm of rainfall fell at the Canefield Airport which is about 45% of the monthly mean. The highest daily total of 6.4mm was recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Dry days were above normal with 20 days being recorded. 7 and 9 days dry spell occurred during earlier and latter parts of the month respectively.

37.8mm of rainfall was measured at the Melville Hall Airport representing about 39% of the monthly mean. The highest daily total was 7.4mm recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 19 dry days which is also above the monthly mean with a maximum dry spell length of 7 days towards the end of the month. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month of below normal rainfall at Melville Hall resulting in a meteorological drought.

While field preparation was able to be undertaken, the extended dry condition in most parts of the island has

largely prevented farmers from establishing new crops this month. Strictly rain-fed farms in particular are suffering from the rainfall deficit.

In order to facilitate the management of the citrus greening disease the cutting down of affected citrus trees in Pointe Michel was undertaken.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
<b>Rainfall Total</b>	28.0mm	37.8mm
<b>30 year average</b>	62.1mm	97.5mm
<b>No. dry days (&lt;1.0mm)</b>	20	19
<b>Temperature</b>	26.6°C	26.3°C
<b>30 year average</b>	26.4°C	25.9°C
<b>Maximum Temperature</b>	31.7°C (27 <sup>th</sup> )	30.7°C (7 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Minimum Temperature</b>	19.0°C (4 <sup>th</sup> )	19.0°C (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>Relative Humidity</b>	59%	69%
<b>Maximum wind gust</b>	56km/h	63km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR MARCH

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
<b>Rainfall</b>	62.1mm	112.8mm
<b>-highest total</b>	131.5mm (1982)	317.4mm (1995)
<b>-lowest total</b>	0.4mm (2010)	27.7mm (1994)
<b>Temperature</b>	26.9°C	26.4°C
<b>-maximum</b>	34.4°C (2010)	32.3°C (2010)
<b>-minimum</b>	18.1°C (2009)	17.2°C (2000)
<b>Chance of 5 day dry spell</b>	100%	66%
<b>Chance of 10 day dry spell</b>	73%	24%

Table 2: Climate summary for March

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**

- Confidence in seasonal outlook is low
- Rainfall is forecast to be below normal to normal for February to April 2013.
- There is a 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 40% chance of being below normal.
- Slightly above normal air temperatures is likely along with reduced local air humidity.

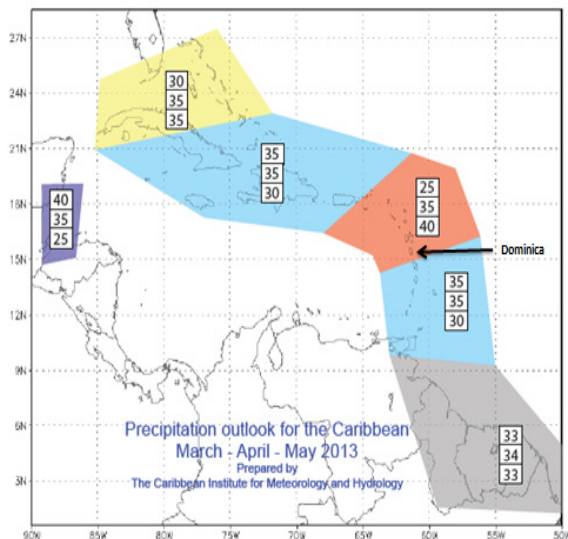


Figure 2: Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: March-April-May 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

As we enter the heart of the dry season, the prolonged dry conditions within the forecast period will necessitate strict management of irrigation, whether using irrigation systems or manual watering. This will maintain the soil moisture for crop growth and development.

The use of compost and plastic or grass mulches will reduce soil water evaporation.

Farmers now establishing crops should employ the methods above for better survival of seedlings.

Livestock should be supplied with sufficient water to prevent dehydration at this time. Animals in pasture should not remain exposed to direct sunlight for excessive periods and need to be provided with some sort of shelter. Grazing animals such as goats and sheep need alternative feeding as grass yields may be low.

Nutrient management of animals is also important in order to reduce stress and to facilitate growth and development.

In planning daily activities, farmers should pay attention to the daily and extended three-day weather forecasts to maximize the use of their time and resources.

Farmers need to remain vigilant for any outbreaks in pest and diseases in particular those growing banana, plantain and citrus.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Three-day forecasts can be found on the Met Office website and facebook page. World Meteorological Day will be recognized on March 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.

**Moon Phases:** ● NM: Mar 11 ● FQ: Mar 19 ● FM: Mar 27 ● LQ: Apr 3

*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](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm) Tele: 767 445 7878,*