



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

## OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR OCTOBER 2012

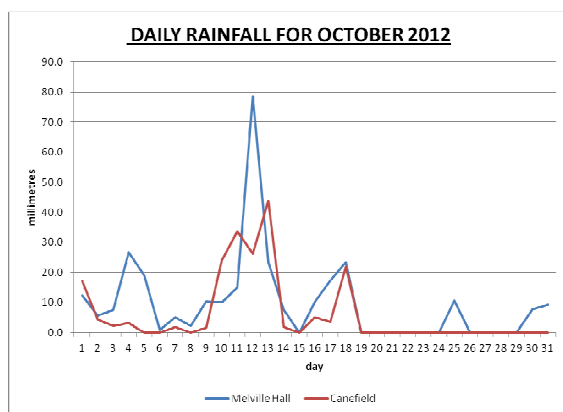


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall Airports

Rainfall totals were normal at the Canefield and Melville Hall Airports for October 2012.

During the month 190.1mm of rainfall was recorded at Canefield which is about 101% of the monthly mean. The maximum daily total was 43.8mm recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup> as Tropical Storm Rafael moved across the region. There were 17 dry days the majority of which occurred during the latter part of the month resulting in a dry spell length of 13 days. The averaged air temperature was 28.6°C which is 0.1° greater than the monthly mean.

303.0mm of rainfall was recorded at Melville Hall which is approximately 95% of the monthly mean. The maximum daily total was 78.5mm recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> as a tropical wave which was associated with an area of low pressure affected the area. This would later develop into

TS Rafael. There were 12 dry days and a maximum dry spell length of 6 days. The averaged air temperature was 28.0°C which is 0.2° below the monthly mean.

The distribution of rainfall especially on the west coast of the island presented some challenge to farmers cultivating on open, rain-fed fields. Farmers were hesitant to plant and those whose crop was almost ready for harvesting saw reduction in yields; particularly of vegetables. Additionally ruminants suffered some stress as foliage was poor this month. The weather however, favoured the control of *black sigatoka*.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	190.1mm	303.0mm
Normal	188.2mm	319.8mm
No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm)	14	19
Average Temperature	28.6°C	28.0°C
Normal	28.5°C	28.2°C
Maximum Temperature	33.8°C (26 <sup>th</sup> )	32.3°C (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	21.4°C (21 <sup>st</sup> )	22.0°C (21 <sup>st</sup> )
Relative Humidity	68%	78%
Maximum wind gust	44km/h	70km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

### Canefield Airport:

Normally, 194.2mm/ 7.65in of rainfall and about 15 rainfall days are recorded. The highest rainfall total recorded for November was

438.3mm/ 17.26in in 1984 and the lowest was 28.4mm/ 1.12in in 2001. Average daily temperature is 27.8°C with an average maximum of 32.6°C and an average minimum of 21.6°C.

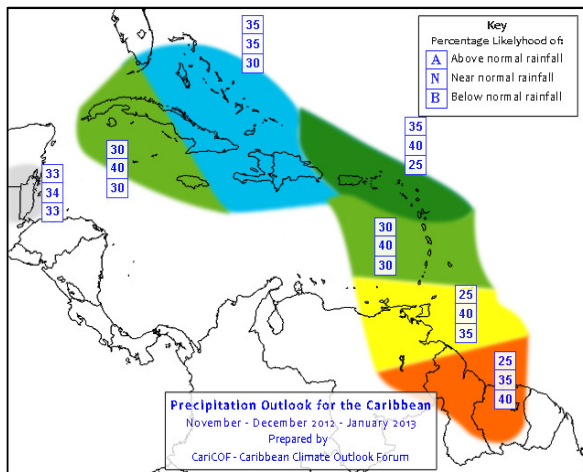
**Melville-Hall Airport:**

On average November is the wettest month with 348.6mm/ 13.72in of rainfall recorded and about 21 rainfall days. The highest rainfall total on record is 912.0mm/ 35.91in in 2004 and the lowest total is 97.2mm/ 3.83in in 1983. Average daily temperature is 27.4°C with an average maximum of 31.1°C and an average minimum of 20.9°C.

November 2012-January 2013 in Dominica.

- There is a 30% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 40% chance of being near normal and a 30% chance of being below normal.
- While sea temperature hovers around average, air temperature could either slightly or significantly rise above average.

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**



**Figure 2: Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: November-December 2012-January 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall)**

- Normal to above normal rainfall is forecast in the period October-

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

With models indicating normal to above normal rainfall amount, farmers should take the opportunity to prepare plots for planting of crop that are in shortage on the market. Greenhouse farmers particularly are encouraged to meet the demand that will increase in the coming Christmas season.

Farmers should take advantage of the dry weather that has continued into November to spray their farms and de-leaf banana and plantain crops as the fight against *black sigatoka* continues.

Good agricultural practices for the upkeep of farms should be continued. Ensure that there is proper drainage and adequate water storage.

Livestock farmers should lookout for heat stress in animals and should keep the animals watered regularly and sheltered in order to avoid this.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

El Nino has somewhat dissipated however its effects will likely suppress excessive rainfall...CAMI stakeholders have met in Jamaica this week to discuss the way forward as the project officially draws to a close. The online discussion on issues related to weather and climate influences on agriculture in the Caribbean can be accessed via <http://mail2.cimh.edu.bb/camionlineforum/>. Feedback is welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin.

**Moon Phases: ● NM: Nov 13 ● FQ: Nov 20 ● FM: Nov 28 ● LQ: Dec 6**

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, 767 449 1990. Website: [www.weather.gov.dm](http://www.weather.gov.dm) Hotline: 447 5555