



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

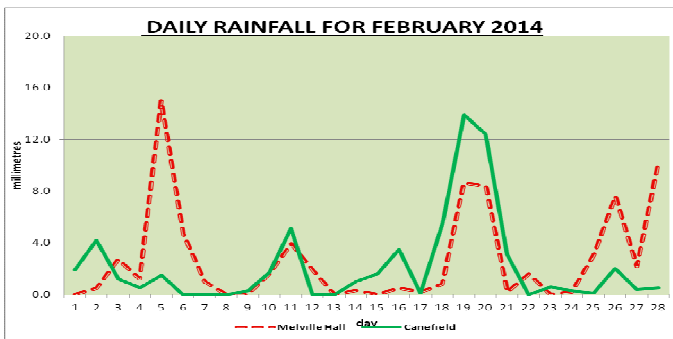


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

The Atlantic high pressure system was the dominant feature throughout the month. Patches of low level clouds moved across the island with the brisk trade wind flow. This resulted in normal to below normal rainfall totals recorded across the island with breezy conditions throughout the month.

The month of February received normal rainfall total at the Canefield Airport. A total of 61.4mm of rainfall was recorded and that is 0.7mm below the normal. The highest daily total recorded was 13.9mm on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 rainfall days and that is 2 days above normal. There were 2 periods with 4 days dry spell. The average air temperature recorded was 26.2°C and this is 0.2°C below normal.

Below normal rainfall total was recorded at the Melville Hall Airport. A total of 76.4mm was recorded and that is 22% below average. The highest daily total recorded was 15.0mm on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen (15) rainfall days were recorded and that is normal. A 6 days dry spell was recorded mid-month. The average air temperature recorded was 26.2°C and that is 0.3°C above average.

Dominica’s micro climate became evident in February with farmers on the east having just enough rainfall to see them through while those on the west experienced significantly dry conditions. Vegetables like lettuce tomatoes and cabbages, root crops like dasheen, ginger, sweet potatoes and yams were in abundance throughout the regions. The west region is beginning to harvest water melon.

High rainfall amounts received during late 2013 into early 2014 produced favourable conditions for the increase and wide spread of The Black Sigatoka Disease all across the island. The Irish potato plants are being affected by Early Blight Disease. There is an increase in the Giant African Snails in the north region (Dos Dane). An increase in slugs was reported in the south east region.

## MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	61.4mm	76.4mm
30 year average	62.1mm	97.5mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	14	15
Temperature	26.2°C	26.2°C
30 year average	26.4°C	25.9°C
Maximum Temperature	30.8°C (14 <sup>th</sup> )	29.0°C (27 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	20.1°C (17 <sup>th</sup> )	21.6°C (27 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	64%	74%
Maximum wind gust	48km/h	65km/h

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

**CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR MARCH**

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	49.0mm	112.8mm
-highest total	129.2mm (2004)	317.4mm (1995)
-lowest total	5.5mm (2010)	27.7mm (1994)
Temperature	26.9°C	26.4°C
-maximum	34.4°C (2010)	32.3°C (2010)
-minimum	18.1°C (2009)	17.2°C (2000)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	100%	66%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	73%	24%

Table 2 Climate summary for March

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**

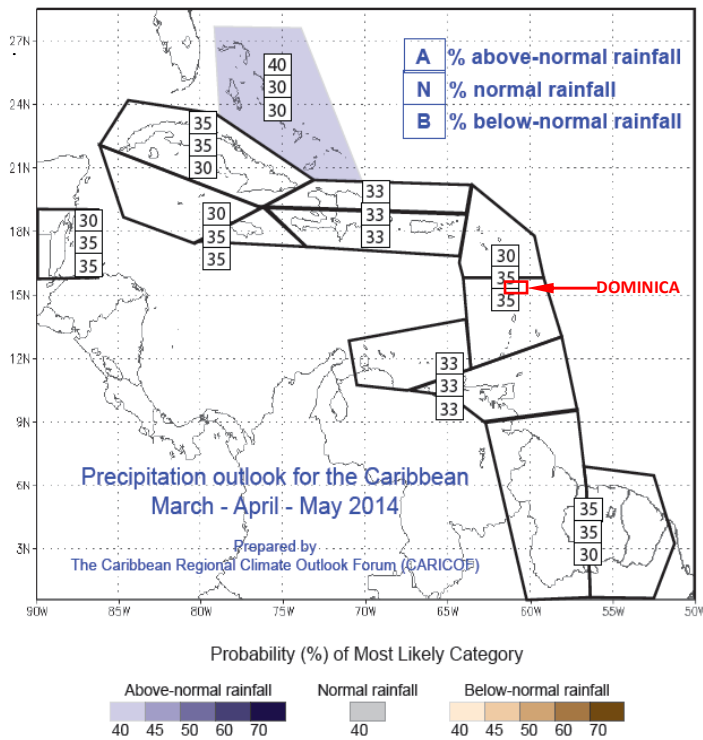


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: March --April -- May 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

With below to normal rainfall totals expected for this dry season farmers are encouraged to put in place an irrigation management system which will help maintain soil moisture. That will help in preventing the wilting of crops and enhance growth and development.

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

Sufficient amounts of water should be given to livestock to help prevent dehydration. Grazing animals should be provided with some form of sheltering to keep them from being exposed to direct sunlight for an excessive period. Alternative feedings may come in handy as grass yields may become low.

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

**Moon Phases**

- NM: 1<sup>st</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>
- FQ: 8<sup>th</sup>
- FM: 16<sup>th</sup>
- LQ: 24<sup>th</sup>

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

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)

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