



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR APRIL 2013

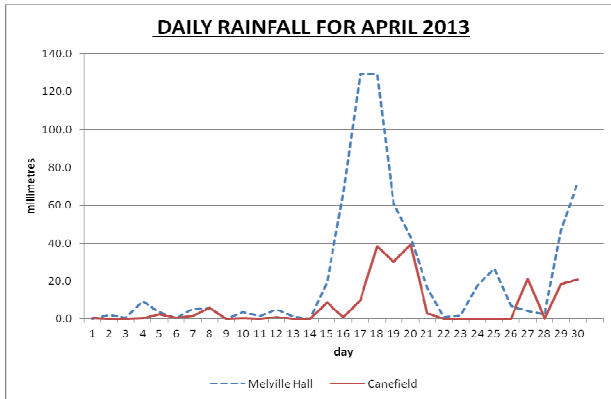


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Rainfall for April was beyond expectations as record breaking totals were recorded at both the Canefield and Melville Hall Airports within the past 30 years.

At Canefield, 203.6mm or a little more than $3\frac{4}{5}$ times the normal rainfall was recorded. This is the highest total for April since recordkeeping began. The maximum daily total was 39.2mm on the 20th. Following days of limited rainfall, the deficit created by a 6 day dry spell during the second week was quickly reversed during the third week.

A total of 684.4mm of rainfall was recorded at Melville Hall during the month. This is almost 4 times the monthly average. This is the second highest monthly total for April on record.

During the earlier part of April, some root and vegetable crops wilted while others showed signs of stunted growth as a result of the dry conditions in the west region. No major crop establishment was undertaken. With the onset of the rains, mostly roots crops were established and farmers were able to carry out

fertilization and other farm practices. The above normal rainfall, however, resulted in flooding of farms in the eastern regions and infrastructural damage to roads.

The Dasheen Complex Disease was seen for the first time on farms in the Salisbury heights and Syndicate area. There was a widespread outbreak of a fungal disease in pumpkin in parts of the west region while an infestation of whiteflies on crops not usually affected by the pest was observed in the northeast region.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	203.6mm	684.4mm
30 year average	54.8mm	171.8mm
No. of dry days (<1.0mm)	18	6
Temperature	27.7°C	26.9°C
30 year average	27.9°C	27.2°C
Maximum Temperature	33.1°C (15 th)	30.4°C (15 th , 24 th)
Minimum Temperature	21.7°C (5 th , 19 th)	21.4°C (20 th , 21 st , 25 th , 26 th)
Relative Humidity	62%	74%
Maximum wind gust	56km/h	52km/h

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR MAY

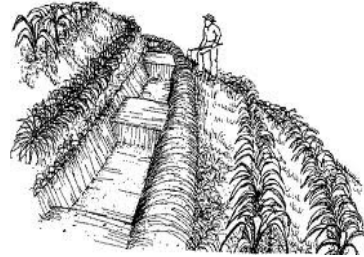
Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	92.0mm	244.5mm
-highest total	298.3mm (1987)	815.7mm (1987)
-lowest total	9.8mm (2007)	12.1mm (2001)
Temperature	28.8°C	28.0°C
-maximum	34.6°C (2005)	33.0°C (2010)
-minimum	20.5°C (1989)	19.8°C (1984/ 1986)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	96%	53%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	50%	17%

Table 2 Climate summary for May

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

- Rainfall is forecast to be normal to above normal for May to July 2013.
- 40% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 25% chance of being below normal.
- Sea surface temperature 0.5C above normal. Air temperatures are likely to be above normal also.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY



With normal rainfall possible, farmers should keep drains free of debris in order to minimize flooding. Drains should be constructed along

contour line on slopes to prevent the significant loss of topsoil.

Growth of weeds and wild host plants in and around fields should be controlled at this time. Weeds are problematic mainly in new clearings and in pruned fields. They offer hiding places and serve as alternate hosts for insects pests. They compete with crops for nutrients and moisture; grasses take away large quantities of potassium and deprive plants of this major nutrient.

Certain cultural practices like mulching and manual weeding are important. Need based application of recommended herbicides will also assist in controlling weeds in new clearings.

Follow the recommendations on the dosage rates stipulated for each fertilizer and follow all safety measures while applying fertilizer. Application of higher dosage of potassium fertilizers is known to reduce the incidence of pests and disease in several crops.

With above normal temperature being forecasted, farmers are encouraged to continue planting as open field vegetables may not perform as well. There could be a decrease of vegetables on the local market.

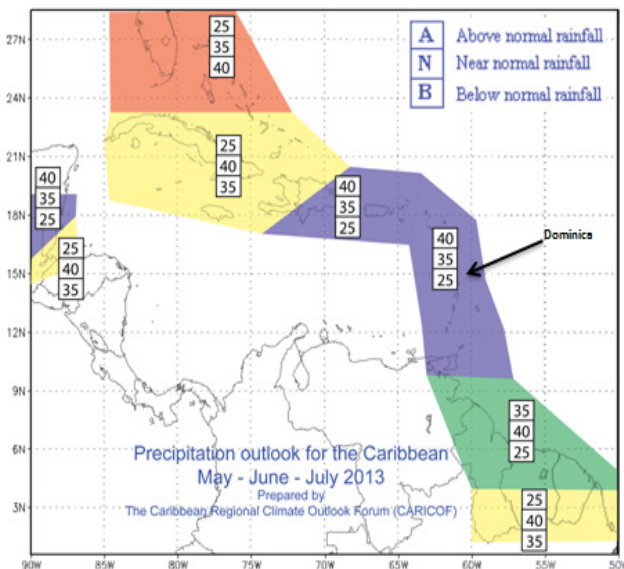


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: May-June-July 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The policy brief and documentary on the CAMI project will be handed over to the Minister of Agriculture. Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.

Moon Phases: ● **NM: May 10** ☾ **FQ: May 18** ● **FM: May 25** ☽ **LQ: May 31**

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 5555