



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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May 2013

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR MAY 2013

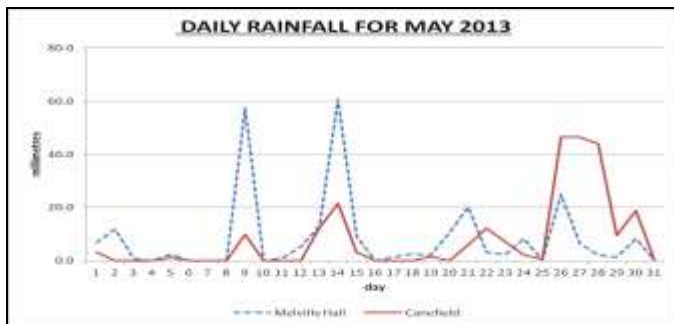


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Moisture and instability associated with trough systems generated much of the shower activities across the island.

The month of May is considered transition month as the dry season comes to an end and we move into the wet and hurricane season. The Canefield Airport recorded 247.2mm of rainfall which is 63% above average. The highest daily total of 46.6mm was recorded on the 27th.

Melville Hall rainfall was rather near average with a total of 263.4mm recorded. This total is 7% above the monthly mean. The highest daily total was 60.8mm which was recorded on the 14th. There were 22 wet days which is above average and no significant dry spell.

With the high level of rainfall received during the month, there was an increase in pest and diseases within the farming communities. There was a slight increase in the spread of the Black Sigatoka Disease, in the numbers of the Giant African Snails and in the powdery mildew on cucumbers. There was a high incidence of internal and external parasites in livestock species and a high prevalence of ticks were observed on animals.

Weeds/ grass species were a major problem as the weather favoured their growth. A decline of the symptoms of the mosaic virus in dasheen was seen.

There is an ongoing citrus greening survey island wide; in addition, an eradication exercise for citrus greening was conducted in the Wesley village. There were landslides in the central and west regions which caused crop loss. There was an increase in root crop establishment, as well as passion fruit, plantains, vegetables and sweet corn. Farmers who established vegetables suffered loss as seedlings along with pesticides applied were washed away by heavy rainfall.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	247.2mm	263.4mm
30 year average	92.0mm	244.5mm
No. of wet days (>1.0mm)	16	22
Temperature	28.2°C	27.8°C
30 year average	28.7°C	28.0°C
Maximum Temperature	33.1°C (7 th)	31.9°C (4 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.7°C (8 th ,20 th ,25 th)	22.1°C (3 rd)
Relative Humidity	69%	76%
Maximum wind gust	43km/h	57km/h

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JUNE		
Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	159.5mm	191.0mm
-highest total	381.3mm (2006)	369.3mm (2005)
-lowest total	54.6mm (1985)	43.1mm (1989)
Temperature	29.1°C	28.5°C
-maximum	34.8°C (1991)	33.7°C (1985)
-minimum	21.5°C (2009)	21.0°C (1985)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	80%	40%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	27%	7%

Table 2 Climate summary for June

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

- Rainfall is forecast to be above normal and very little chance of below normal from June to August 2013.
- 45% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being normal and a 20% chance of being below normal.
- The expected above normal rainfall across the Antilles should keep air temperatures at relatively mild below normal to normal levels

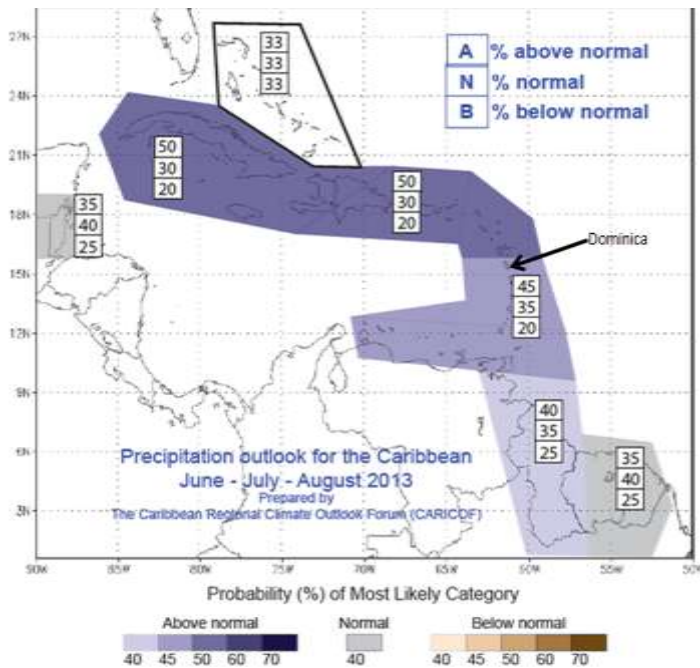


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: June-July-August 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an active or extremely active 2013 hurricane season with 13-20 named storms, 7-11 could become hurricanes and 3-6 major hurricanes. A farmer’s forum is scheduled for June 25th 2013 for the south. Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.

Moon Phases: ● **NM: 8th** ● **FQ: 16th** ● **FM: 23rd** ● **LQ: 30th**

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

With the forecast for another month of above normal rainfall, farmers are encouraged to put into action practices that will help in the control of the pest and diseases which due to high rainfall in the past months became prevalent.

Strict farm sanitation is key in the controlling of pest and diseases. Weed management is essential in farm practices. Livestock species should be de-wormed and vitamins given. Application of slug bait might be necessary to keep away slugs and snails in areas where their population is high. For banana and plantain farmers, de-leafing is critical in management of the Black Sigatoka Disease.

There is a schedule spraying of volley to be done island wide for the management of the Black Sigatoka Disease and an ongoing citrus greening survey. There is also a schedule demonstration workshop for livestock farmers in surveillance, identification and treatment of ticks and others diseases affecting livestock farmers

Farmers are encouraged to continue planting and establishing crops and rearing their animals and to improve crop density by using the recommended spacing for planting crops.

HURRICANE TIP

Flash flooding and landslides may occur, farmers are therefore advised to remain vigilant and be ready for quick action if flooding and or landslides are observed.

2013 HURRICANE NAMES

Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, Wendy.