



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JULY 2013

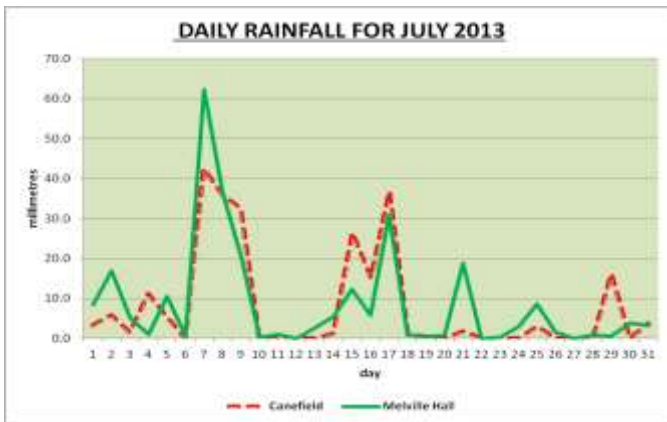


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

The center of tropical storm Chantal, the first storm for the season to affect the island, passed some 70 miles to the south on the 9th. Chantal along with tropical waves generated most of the rainfall amounts. Additionally, unstable conditions on the 7th contributed to the month’s highest daily rainfall totals at both Melville Hall and Canefield Airports.

Rainfall total at Canefield was near normal this month. A total of 244.0mm was recorded and this is just 3% below its normal. The highest daily total of 42.4mm was recorded on the 7th. Seventeen (17) wet days were recorded which is below the norm. There was no significant dry spell

Rainfall total at Melville Hall was rather above normal. A total of 262.8mm was recorded and this is 11% above its average. The highest daily total of 62.3mm was recorded on the 07th. There were 20 wet days which is 2 days below normal. There was no significant dry spell.

The establishment of root crops, mainly sweet potato, cush cush, ginger, cassava and open field vegetables -

cucumbers continued in the east region. Sorrell establishment began in the west region. While there was a scarcity of dasheen on the market, plantain was in abundance.

Tropical storm Chantal affected 10-15% of banana and plantain farms in the northeast, 50 % in the east and 20-25 % in the south east region. After the passage of Chantal, there was no significant rainfall on the west coast. Farmers without proper irrigation systems observed stunting and poor growth rates in vegetables. Inefficiencies in farm productivity resulted.

Symptoms of the Black Sigatoka Disease were observed for the first time in the north east region. The eradication activity of the Citrus Greening Disease continued. There was a continued problem of parrot affecting citrus bearing trees. An increase in pest and disease in vegetable especially cucumbers and Anthracnose in lettuce was observed in the northeast and west regions. Observations made in the east region saw plantain intercropped with coconut is being infected with the Red Palm Mite Disease and Tristeza Virus in citrus. A rust problem in bananas and plantains was also observed in the south east region.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	244.0mm	262.8mm
30 year average	251.4mm	237.2mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	17	20
Temperature	28.5°C	28.6°C
30 year average	28.9°C	28.6°C
Maximum Temperature	34.1°C (30 th)	32.0°C (30 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.5°C (28 th)	22.8°C (9 th)
Relative Humidity	65%	74%
Maximum wind gust	80km/h	76km/h

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR AUGUST

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	244.3mm	255.4mm
-highest total	539.4mm (2007)	457.3mm (2010)
-lowest total	102.0mm (1984)	80.1mm (1984)
Temperature	28.9°C	28.8°C
-maximum	35.4°C (2005)	34.3°C (1996)
-minimum	20.9°C (2012)	20.9°C (1992)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	42%	13%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	0%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for August

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

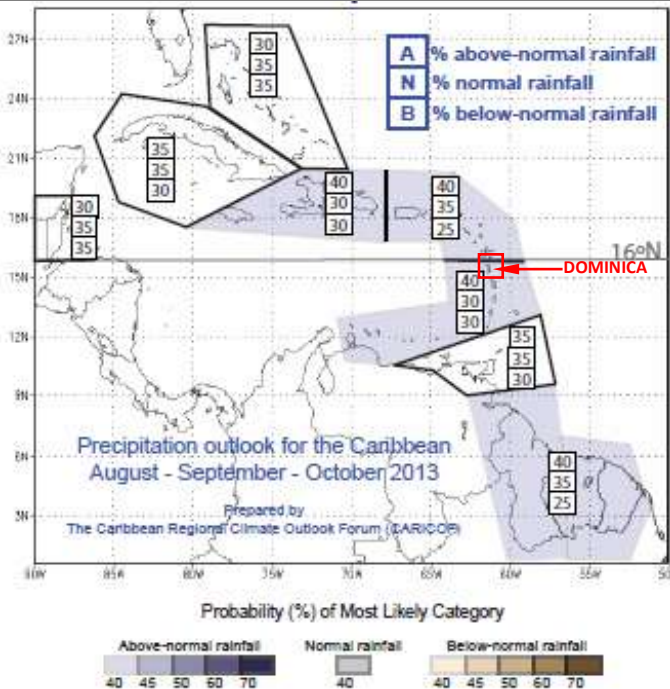


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: August-September-October 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

- ✦ Above normal to normal rainfall, higher humidity and above average storminess are expected.
- ✦ There is a 40% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 30% chance of being normal and a 30% chance of being below normal.
- ✦ Though air temperatures are expected to be generally above normal, it is also anticipated to be relatively mild into August.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are encouraged to continue the planting and establishment of root crops and the rehabilitation of plantain fields.

There will be the continuation of the management strategy of the Citrus Greening and Black Sigatoka diseases; public awareness activity and a schedule Black Sigatoka spray cycle for the month of August.

NOTICE

The quarantine act legislation 10 chapter 58.4 section 15 and the ISPSM publication 9 gives quarantine officers the mandate for all related pest and disease management. The guidelines for the pest eradication program include containment, spread /distribution, control and eradication of pest and disease.

HURRICANE TIPS

Keep drains free of debris. Avoid planting temporary crops on steep slopes (30°). Keep trees well pruned. Harvest crops that are ready for the market. Retrofit all farm structures.

2013 HURRICANE NAMES; ~~Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian~~, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, Wendy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOAA's August 8th updated 2013 hurricane season forecast calls for a 70% chance of an above normal season. Expected are 13 to 19 named storms, 6 to 9 hurricanes, 3 to 5 of which could become major hurricanes.

Please remember we are in the hurricane season. Be prepared.

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

Moon Phases: ●NM: 6th ●FQ: 14th ○FM: 21st ●LQ: 28th

✦ 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