



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

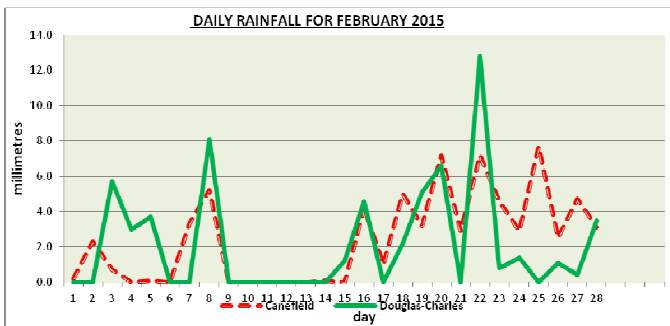


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

rainfall days just 2 days below the normal. A 6-day dry spell also occurred during the second week.

Uneven rainfall pattern was reported by farmers with one half of the month being wet and the other dry. These however did not significantly reduce production of root crops and vegetables are in abundance in some regions. Pumpkins were well established in the west.

A spray cycle for *Black Sigatoka* was completed this month and preliminary data collected in the field shows a decrease in symptoms. Plant diagnostic work is ongoing for various pests and diseases such as nematodes and bacterial problems in white potatoes. In addition to this, there has been ongoing training during the month in the identification of palm weevils, a vector for the red wing disease in palms. Technicians are performing lab rearing techniques for natural enemies.

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR FEBRUARY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	68.1mm	60.2mm
30 year normal	81.6 to 138.2mm	77.2 to 106.7mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	16	13
Temperature	26.6°C	26.3°C
30 year average	26.4°C	25.9°C
Maximum Temperature	32.0°C (11 th)	30.7°C (12 th)
Minimum Temperature	20.8°C (25 th)	19.6°C (11 th)
Relative Humidity	64%	73%
Maximum wind gust	43km/h	56km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	8hrs 12mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Canefield Airport recorded a total of 68.1mm of rainfall which is normal. The month's highest daily rainfall total was 7.7mm recorded on the 25th. Rainfall days were more than normal 12 days. The longest dry spell length recorded was 7 days during the second week of the month.

Below normal rainfall, 60.2mm, was recorded at **Douglas-Charles Airport**. The highest rainfall total recorded was 12.8mm on the 22nd. There were 13

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR MARCH

We are in the peak of the dry season. Heavy showers are mostly limited in area and duration.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	49.0mm	112.8mm
-highest total	129.2mm (2004)	317.4mm (1995)
-lowest total	5.5mm (2005)	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

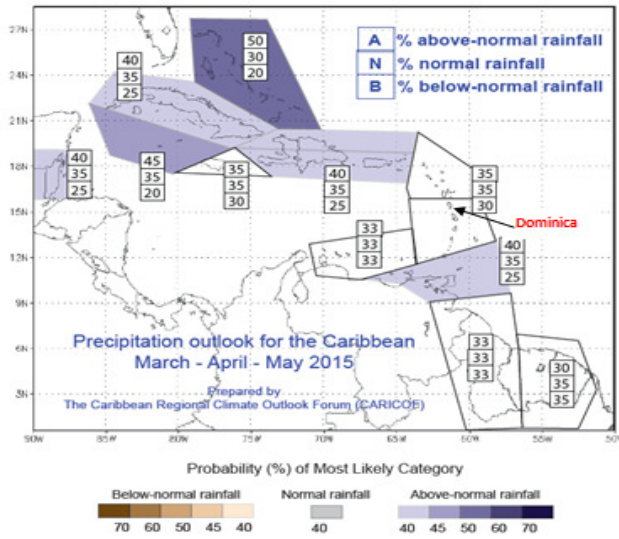
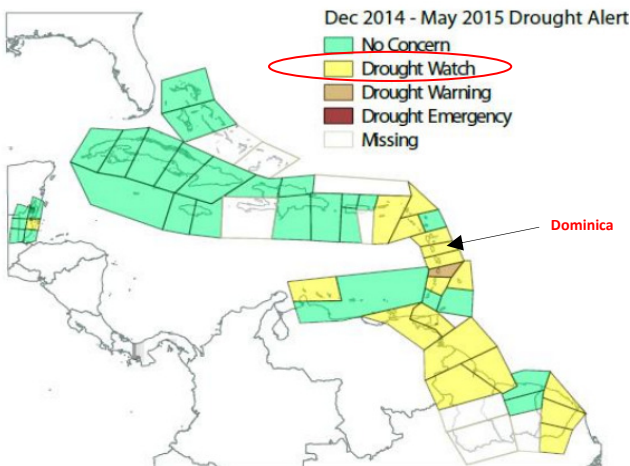


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: March-April-May 2015

- Rainfall amounts and air temperature are expected to be normal to above normal 70% confidence.
- There is a 35% chance of above normal, 35% normal and 30% below normal rainfall amounts.

REGIONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK



Short-term:

Dominica is under a drought watch (drought possible). Implement management plans and response training to drought conditions.

Long-term:

Impactful hydrological drought, that is, potential impacts on large surface water reserves and groundwater still exists and Dominica is under a drought warning.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Though normal to above normal rainfall is forecast, rainfall totals during this time are usually not sufficient to support rain-fed only farming as these totals are still below productive amounts. As a result, water harvesting from rainfall or pumping from rivers and streams in open field plots is encouraged to supplement. Greenhouse farmers should ensure that their irrigation systems are properly maintained, that timers are functional to reduce water stress.

Farmers should refrain from slash and burn methods to clear lands particularly in the Central and West Regions to reduce 'forest' fires.

Pen manure may be used to help soil moisture retention and to increase soil fertility.

Agronomic practices such as weeding and cleaning storm drains of weeds and debris should be done daily.

FM: 5th LQ: 13th NM: 20th FQ: 27th

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional_bulletin.html

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

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