



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR MAY 2014

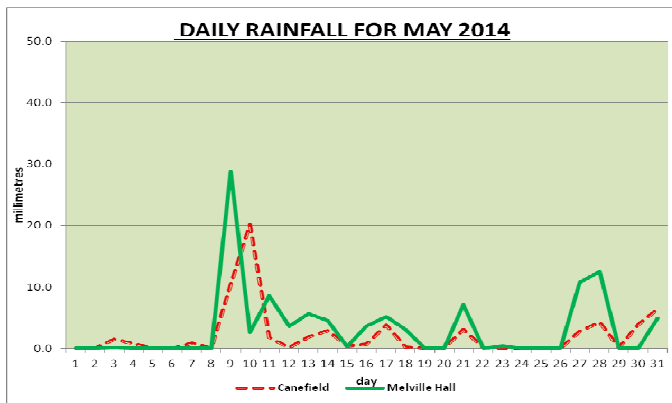


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

The Atlantic high pressure system continued to be the dominant feature for most of May resulting in a generally stable atmosphere. Rainfall totals bordering on normal to below normal amounts transitioned the island into the wet/ hurricane season.

At the Canefield Airport a total of 66.2mm of rainfall was recorded which is 72% of the mean. The highest daily total recorded was 20.1mm on the 10th. This was associated with instability from a trough system which affected the area from the 8th to 12th. There were 10 rainfall days, which is normal, with two 5 days dry spells during the first and last dekad (10 day period).

Melville Hall Airport reported a monthly rainfall total of 101.7mm was recorded which is 42% of the mean. This is the second consecutive month with below normal rainfall and the driest JFMAM since 2001. The highest daily total recorded was 28.8mm on the 9th. There were 13 rainfall days. This is 4 days below the monthly average. An 8 days dry spell during the beginning of the month which continued from April resulted in 17 straight days of no rainfall at Melville Hall.

Normal rainfall conditions were reported across the western, southern and eastern agricultural regions resulting in bountiful vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumber, ground provisions and culinary herbs. There was also a reduction in Army worm infestation. However, the northern regions reported dry conditions which prevented the establishment of new crops and the harvesting of others such as yams and sweet potatoes. There were reports of plantain tree snapping due to the lack of moisture. Mostly land preparations continued to take place in this area during the month.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	66.2mm	101.7mm
30 year average	92.0mm	mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	12	13
Temperature	27.9°C	27.8°C
30 year average	28.8°C	28.0°C
Maximum Temperature	33.5°C (26 th)	30.8°C (7 th)
Minimum Temperature	21.9°C (10 th)	21.1°C (6 th)
Relative Humidity	62%	72%
Maximum wind gust	56km/h	63km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	8hrs 18mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JUNE

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	92.0mm	191.0mm
-highest total	298.3mm (1987)	424.3mm (1987)
-lowest total	9.8mm (2007)	43.1mm (1989)
Temperature	29.0°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

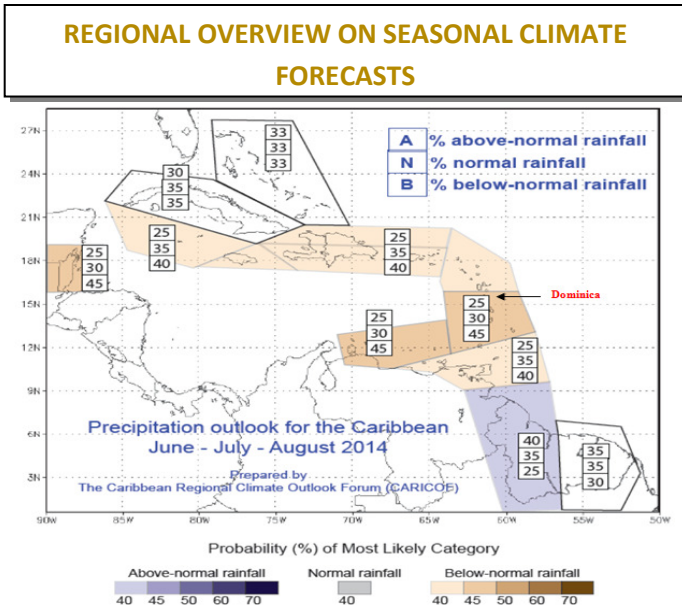


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: June-July-August 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

- Below normal to normal rainfall is expected with 75% confidence.
- There is 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, 30% chance of being normal and 45% chance of being below normal.
- Possible delayed start of the wet season.
- 70% confidence in El Niño event by Sept-Oct-Nov. El Niño is associated with a drier wet season.
- If El Niño manifests, less water will be stored in the wet season. As a result, less water will be available for use in the dry season.
- Normal to above-normal air temperature with 70% confidence.

● **FQ: 5th** ○ **FM: 13th** ● **LO: 29nd** ● **NM: 27th**

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

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (meteorologist, climatologists and stakeholders) which prepares the seasonal forecast met at the end of May in Jamaica to discuss the outlook for the wet/ hurricane season and has added a drought forecast to its product line.