



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR AUGUST 2014

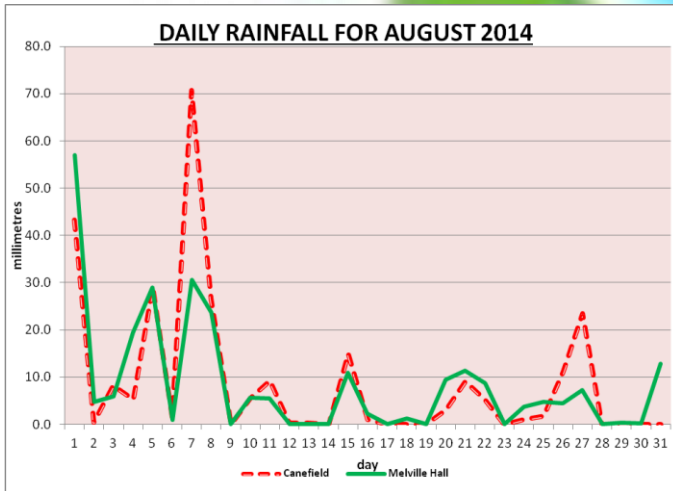


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	271.4mm	260.5mm
30 year average	244.3mm	255.4mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	18	20
Temperature	28.5°C	28.5°C
30 year average	28.9°C	28.8°C
Maximum Temperature	33.4°C (25 <sup>th</sup> )	31.6°C (15 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	23.3°C (26 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> )	21.5°C (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	67%	77%
Maximum wind gust	44km/h	72km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 18mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	253.7mm	319.1mm
<b>-highest total</b>	434.4mm (1996)	744.5mm (2004)
<b>-lowest total</b>	31.9mm (2012)	94.3mm (2012)
Temperature	28.7°C	28.6°C
<b>-maximum</b>	34.9°C (2005)	34.3°C (2012)
<b>-minimum</b>	20.7°C (1997)	20.0°C (1992)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	53%	33%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	7%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for September

Dominica was affected by its first tropical system for 2014, Tropical Storm Bertha, on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Bertha passed some 40miles to the south of the island producing tropical storm force winds and rainfall amounts of up to 2 inches. Tropical waves also contributed to the month's total rainfall amounts.

A monthly total of 271.4mm of rainfall was recorded at the Canefield station. This total was 27.1mm more than the monthly mean. The highest daily total recorded was 70.7mm on the 7<sup>th</sup> as a result of the passage of a tropical wave. There were 18 rainfall days and that is normal.

Melville Hall recorded a monthly total of 260.5mm of rainfall which is 5.1mm more than the monthly mean. Tropical Storm Bertha produced the highest daily total of 57.0mm on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 20 rainfall days and that is normal for the month of August.

There were no reports of any extensive damages to crops as a result of the passage of Tropical Storm Bertha. Farmers across the island embraced the rainfall events and began cultivating and fertilizing fields while others harvested. Some have begun the replanting of vegetables to ensure that the high demands are met for this upcoming independence season. At present, vegetables remain in abundance on the market to include, lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers. There was also an increase in breadfruit and avocado pears.

The Black Sigatoka Disease continues to spread across the island. The Giant African Snails numbers continue to increase with the increase in rainfall amounts as these conditions are favourable for reproduction. Green Scales, Greasy Spot and Brown Citrus Aphid were observed on citrus, Bacterial Leaf Spot and Phytophthora Rot in peppers and Ghost Spot on dasheen were among some of the pests/ diseases observed during the month.

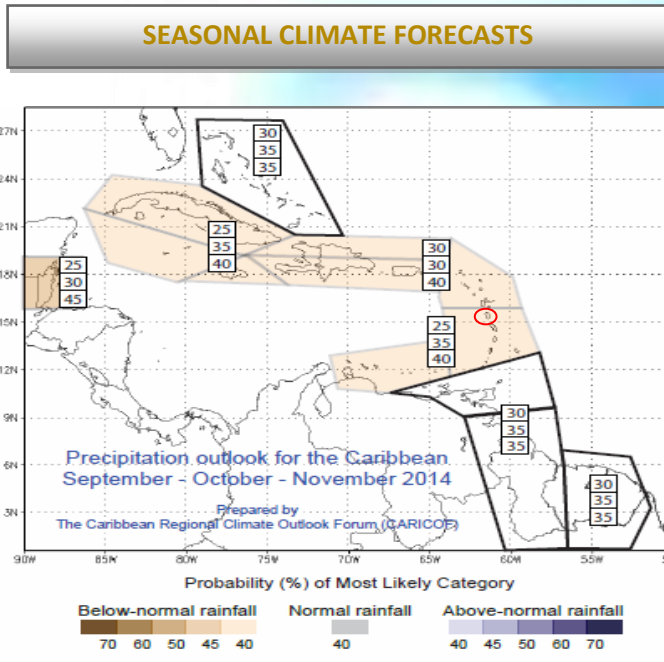


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: September-October-November 2014

- Below to normal rainfall is expected with 75% confidence and above to normal air temperature with 80% confidence.
- There is 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, 35% chance of being normal and 40% chance of being below normal.
- September is normally a wet month with frequent heavy rainfall, tropical storms and hurricanes.

**2014 HURRICANE NAMES:**

~~Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred~~

● FQ: 2<sup>nd</sup> ○ FM: 9<sup>th</sup> ◐ LQ: 16<sup>nd</sup> ● NM: 24<sup>th</sup>

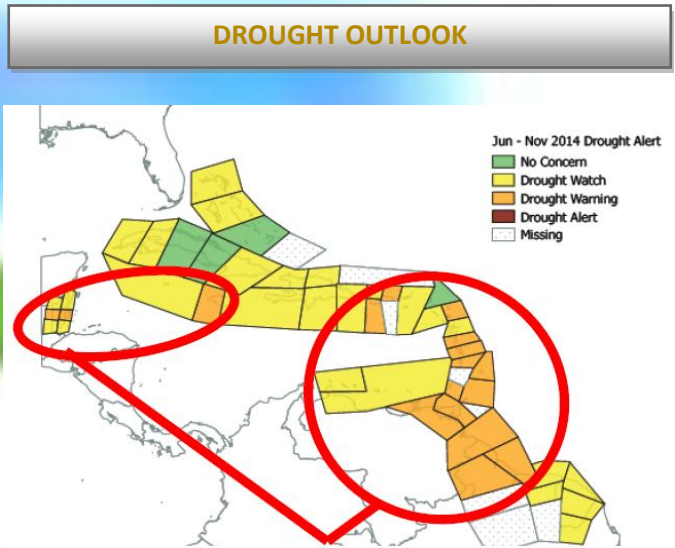


Figure 3 Drought Outlook to end of November 2014

**This month's update:** Drought evolving over Belize, Jamaica, Antigua, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago and Northern Guyana

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

Farmers are encouraged to establish their vegetable plots as there will be a high demand for vegetables in October and November. Weather events such as tropical waves are sometimes high rainfall events resulting in flash flooding and land/ mudslides. As such, ensure that there is efficient drainage and soil conservation measures on farms.

Be more vigilant and take measures to help reduce the increase incidence of Pest/ disease as they thrive best in wet conditions. The Black Sigatoka Disease continues to be an issue and farmers as urged to do their necessary agronomic practices such as de-leaving and nutrient application.

**'Pesticide Awareness Week', runs from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**  
**"BUY AS REQUIRED USE BEFORE THEY EXPIRE"**

*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](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm). Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: [www.weather.gov.dm](http://www.weather.gov.dm) Hotline: 447 5555. Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.*