



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Issue 7

October 2014

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR OCTOBER 2014

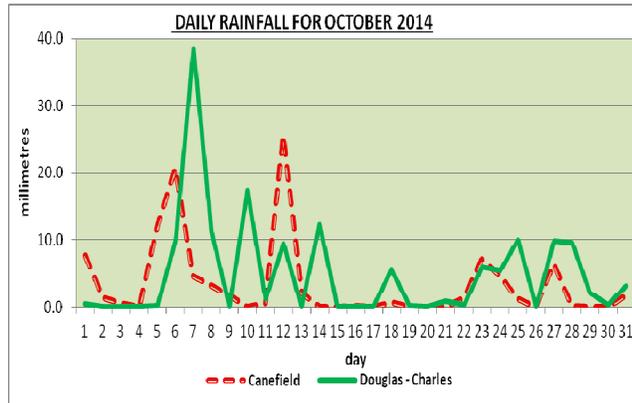


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	103.4mm	154.0mm
30 year average	188.2mm	319.8mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	15	15
Temperature	28.6°C	28.4°C
30 year average	28.5°C	28.2°C
Maximum Temperature	34.2°C (25 th)	32.1°C (14 th)
Minimum Temperature	23.3°C (22 nd)	21.2°C (14 th)
Relative Humidity	67%	77%
Maximum wind gust	33km/h	37km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 27mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Below normal rainfall was recorded across the island this month. Much of the island’s rainfall was as a result of unstable conditions generated by lingering trough systems and Tropical Storm Gonzalo which formed just east of the Leeward Islands on the 12th. Fewer tropical waves affected the island this month.

A total of 103.4mm of rainfall was recorded at the Canefield Airport. This total represents about 55% of the monthly mean. Unstable conditions due to the passage of Tropical Storm Gonzalo north of the region contributed to the month’s highest daily rainfall total of 25.6mm on the 12th. Rainfall days were normal with a total of 15 days recorded. An eight days dry spell was recorded mid month.

The Douglas-Charles Airport recorded a total of 154.0mm (i.e. 48% of the monthly mean) of rainfall for October and that is the lowest monthly total recorded in the past two decades. A weak trough system produced the month’s highest daily rainfall total of 38.6mm on the 7th. There were 15 rainfall days. Dry spells dominated the beginning and middle of the month.

Below normal rainfall was experienced across the regions. Farming practices were not impacted. There was an increase in production of sweet potatoes and plantain in the north. The southern region saw a reduction in vegetable production namely- lettuce and cabbages. Carrots were observed to be smaller than usual. There was an abundance in production of root crops namely- yams and dasheen; pineapples and christophene.

Fungal spots were observed on celery and parsley.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2014

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	194.2mm	348.6mm
-highest total	438.3mm (1984)	912.0mm (2004)
-lowest total	28.4mm (2001)	97.2mm (1983)
Temperature	27.8°C	27.4°C
-maximum	33.7°C (1997)	32.8°C (1999)
-minimum	19.4°C (2008)	18.9°C (2010)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	77%	27%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	20%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for November

SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

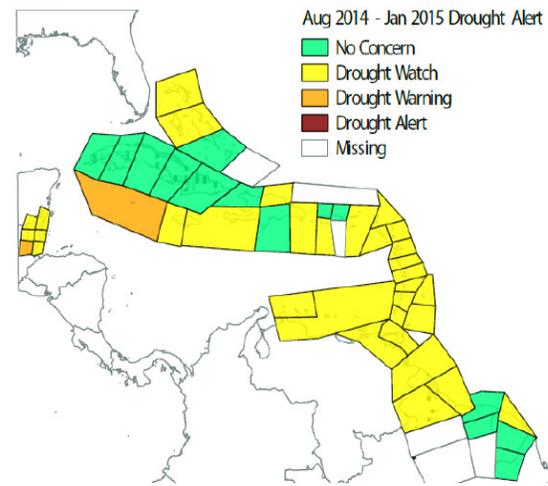
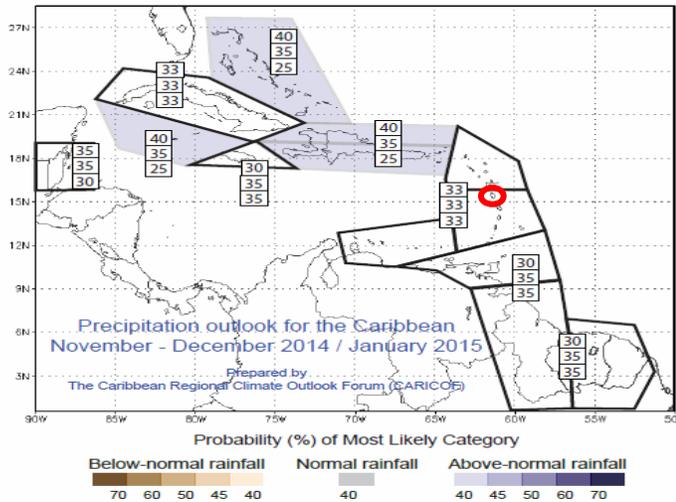


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: November- December 2014 –January 2015

Air temperature is expected to be above- to normal (80% confidence). Chances for either above, below and or normal rainfall are equal.

November is usually a wet month, with frequent heavy rainfall, occasional tropical storms and hurricanes.

Drought watch: Keep updated. (Recent drought conditions have improved).

Long-term concern: Reduced water availability in the dry season.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers should maintain constant communication with the Ministry of Agriculture and Dominica Meteorological Service for weather and drought updates.

The following practices should be maintained to help prevent severe crop loss in the event of dry conditions - water harvesting from rainfall or pumping from rivers and streams; mulching with plastic and plant materials; weeding around plants and trees to reduce the loss of soil moisture but a low infestation of weeds should be maintain; the use of organic and Tea manures are advisable to maintain moisture, nutrients and living organism in the soil.

Farmers should continue the fight against the Black Sigatoka Disease by de-leafing, removal of infected area while maintaining at least eight clear leaves on their banana or plantain plant

2014 HURRICANE NAMES: Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vickv, Wilfred

○ FM: 6th ● LO: 14th ● NM: 22nd ● FO: 29th

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