



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2014

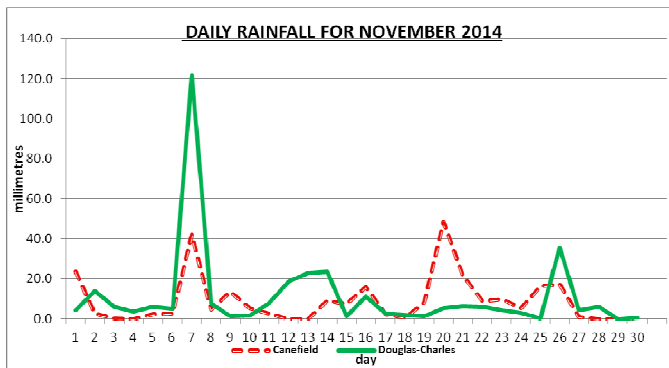


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	272.6mm	334.4mm
30 year average	253.7mm	319.1mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	21	27
Temperature	27.6°C	27.5°C
30 year average	28.7°C	28.6°C
Maximum Temperature	33.3°C (9 th)	30.7°C (5 th)
Minimum Temperature	21.9°C (28 th)	20.6°C (28 th)
Relative Humidity	69%	78%
Maximum wind gust	31km/h	69km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	6hrs 00mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Canefield Airport: Above normal rainfall was recorded. The highest daily total recorded was 48.7mm on the 20th as a trough system lingered across the region. There was a 4-days dry spell towards the end of the month. The average air temperature recorded was 27.6°C. The average wind direction was east south easterly (110°) at an average speed of 6km/h.

Douglas-Charles: Normal rainfall was recorded during November. The maximum daily total recorded was 121.9mm on the 7th due to the passage of a trough

system. No significant dry spells. The average air temperature was 27.5°C. Winds maintained an east south east (110°) direction at an average speed of 13km/h.

Heavy rains were reported across the island which affected the establishment of vegetables. Land preparation was unable to be undertaken for these crops and some pest and diseases were recorded. Vegetables grown in greenhouses, however, were not affected. Establishment of root crops continued with dasheen and yams being the main crop.

The *Black Sigatoka* management program is ongoing. Trainings in alternative measures of control such as the use of tea manure and composting were done. Farmers adopting these techniques, along with de-leafing and spraying, are showing positive results.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2014

An uncertainty exists in rainfall total (wetter or drier than normal) as we transition into the 'dry' season which runs until May.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	188.2mm	219.2mm
-highest total	439.1mm (1985)	631.4mm (2001)
-lowest total	27.6mm (1992)	91.2mm (2009)
Temperature	26.9°C	26.6°C
-maximum	32.4°C (1997/2003)	31.1°C (1987)
-minimum	18.0°C (1991)	16.9°C (1991)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	93%	31%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	25%	7%

Table 2 Climate summary for December

SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

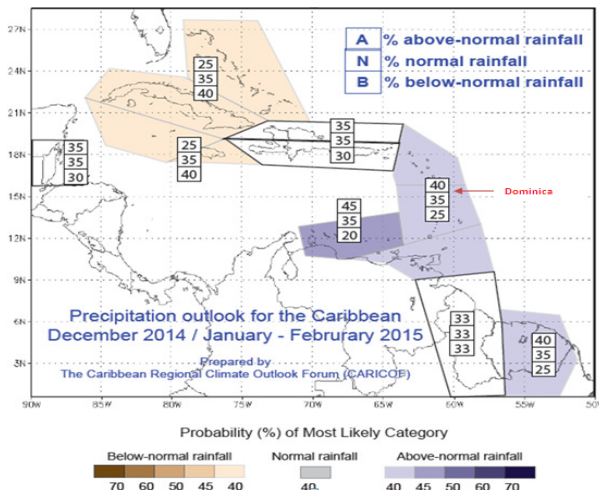


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook: December 2014 –January-February 2015

- Normal to above normal rainfall is expected with 75% confidence.
- There is 40% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, 35% chance of being normal and 25% chance of being below normal.
- Above to normal air temperature with 80% confidence.

2014 HURRICANE SEASON

Generally below average.



8 named storms; 6 hurricanes (2 major); Arthur (H), Bertha (H), Cristobal (H), Dolly (TS), Edouard (MH), Fay (H), Gonzalo (MH), Hanna (TS)

Relatively quiet season in Dominica. No severe weather activity was observed.

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Rainfall during the wet season (June to November) at Douglas-Charles was below normal; a deficit of about 20mm. Rainfall was normal at Canefield for the period.

Dry season: Impactful hydrological drought concern exists for much of the region up to May 2015, particularly if El Niño evolves by year end.

This month's update: Greater concern exists for parts of the Eastern Caribbean up to February 2015.

Continue to conserve water! Keep updated!

OUTLOOK FOR FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are encouraged to employ a holistic approach in controlling *Black Sigatoka*. Combine alternative measures with those already existing such as de-leafing, field sanitation and drainage. These activities should become part of the farm work schedule.

Field assessments are ongoing to determine the status of the disease and to plan spray cycles. Such a cycle is scheduled to take place soon.

White potato planting season begins. Farmers should continue to register and certain services will be facilitated by the Division of Agriculture.

Horticulture program is ongoing and farmers should continue their establishments in December.

Continue to be proactive in the management of pest problems.

● FQ: 28th ○ FM: 6th ● LQ: 14th ● NM: 22nd

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 met in Antigua, December 1st to 3rd. Meteorologists/ climatologists and stakeholders from various sectors including Agriculture, Health and Water Resources of the member states, held sessions to better understand the seasonal climate forecast for the 'dry' season and to improve on the methods of communicating it to the end-users. Dominica was well represented.