



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR DECEMBER 2014

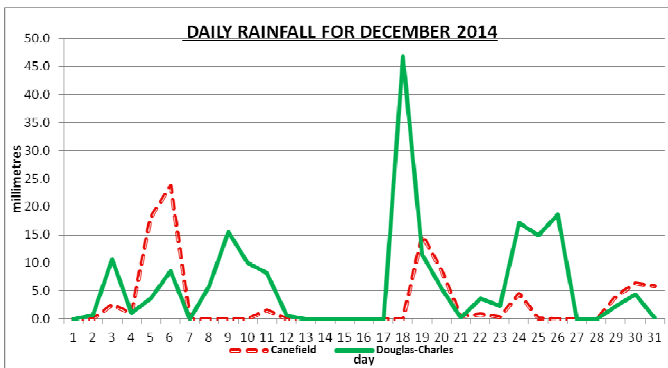


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	92.6mm	191.7mm
30 year average	102.2mm	219.2mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	10	18
Temperature	26.8°C	26.1°C
30 year average	26.9°C	26.6°C
Maximum Temperature	32.1°C (1 st)	29.8°C (2 nd)
Minimum Temperature	20.6°C (15 th)	19.0°C (28 th)
Relative Humidity	68%	78%
Maximum wind gust	43km/h	54km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	6hrs 18mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Canefield Airport: Normal rainfall was recorded. The highest daily total recorded was 23.7mm on the 6th. The longest dry spell was 7 days during the second and third week. The average air temperature recorded was 26.8°C. Average wind was easterly (090°) at a speed of 6km/h.

Douglas-Charles: Normal rainfall was recorded during December. The maximum daily total recorded was 46.8mm on the 18th as a frontal system dipped southwards into the area. A 6-days dry spell also

spanned the second and third weeks. The average air temperature was 26.1°C. Winds maintained an east south east (110°) direction at an average speed of 11km/h.

Open field and greenhouse vegetable farmers reported high amounts of rainfall for the month of December. The temperatures were reported to be low at nights. Pest and disease such as mole cricket, fungi and slugs affected production. The main crops affected were lettuce, tomato and culinary herbs. There was a loss of income reported by farmers who were severely affected. Farmers continued to establish root crops throughout all agriculture regions. Dasheen production was predominant. Others included yams, tannia and cushcush. Harvesting of the dasheen crop has begun at this time with limited reports of the diseases affecting it as compared to last year. On the other hand, sweet potato, a dry season crop, is not thriving as well.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2015

Start of the dry season. Occasionally wet, cool and breezy.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	108.3mm	136.0mm
-highest total	228.2mm (2011)	249.0mm (1998)
-lowest total	31.3mm (2001)	68.6mm (1989)
Temperature	26.4°C	26.1°C
-maximum	32.0°C (2005)	31.8°C (1987)
-minimum	18.2°C (2008)	17.1°C (1988)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	70%	40%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	30%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for January

SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECAST

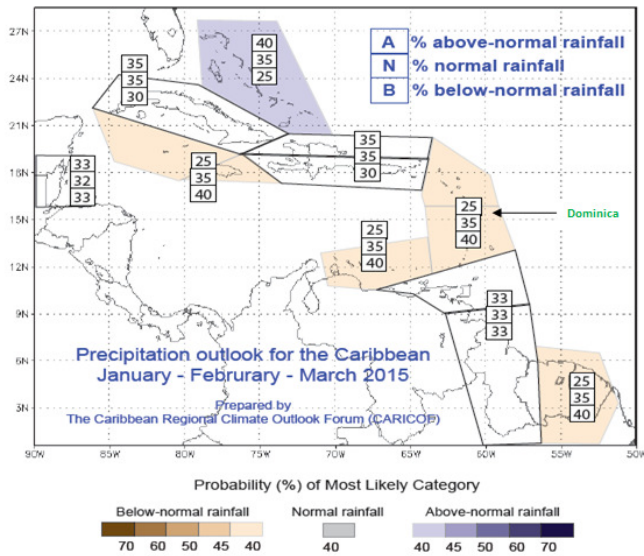


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook: January-February-March 2015

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

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

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

This month's update: Drought conditions continue to evolve.

Continue to conserve water! Keep updated!

OUTLOOK FOR FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are encouraged to keep clear records of crop yields particularly when unfamiliar growth is detected. In that way correlations may be sought into why a crop turned out the way it did.

To minimize loss, care should be taken in the selection of crops to include those which thrive in generally cooler temperatures, decreasing rainfall amounts and shorter daylight hours.

Increased winds speeds are normally observed during this period and may make the application of fertilizers difficult. The three day forecast issued by the Met Office may help in planning ahead for appropriate days in which applications can be done. In addition, methods of application that minimizes loss should be undertaken.

These winds may also aid in the increased spread of *Black Sigatoka* spores from infected areas to those which are not. All measures to prevent this from happening and overall management of the disease should be undertaken.

Weather conditions at this time are favourable for outbreaks in ticks and worms. Livestock should be treated and farmers should remain vigilant.

A Prosperous 2015 to All Farmers

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/>.