



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

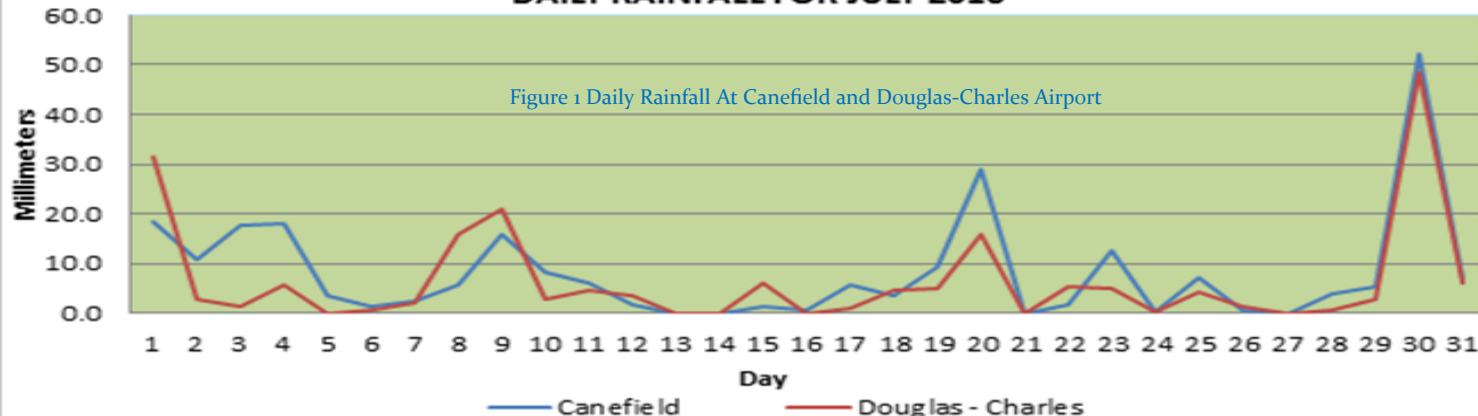
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July 2016

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JULY

A series of tropical waves, trough systems and the Atlantic High Pressure System were the dominant features for July. This resulted in slightly below normal rainfall total at the Douglas-Charles Airport and normal rainfall total at the Canefield Airport. The tropical wave which traversed the region on the 30th produced the month's highest daily rainfall total of 52.3mm at Canefield and 48.4mm at the Douglas-Charles Airport. Haze and gusty winds were also recorded throughout the month.

DAILY RAINFALL FOR JULY 2016



MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR JULY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total normal	250.0mm 218.8 to 315.1mm	197.4mm 199.1 to 273.2mm
Wet Days (≥1.0mm)	24(above normal)	21(normal)
Temperature 30 year normal	29.2°C 28.9°C	29.0°C 28.6°C
Maximum Temperature	34.0°C (7th)	32.1°C (15th)
Minimum Temperature	22.7°C (18th)	23.3°C (18th)
Relative Humidity	67%	76%
Maximum wind gust	89km/h	63km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	8hrs 6mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters for July 2016

HURRICANE CORNER

Climatologically the Atlantic Hurricane Season is most active from mid-August to late October and peaks by mid-September. During August and September the most likely origin of cyclones are from the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and these systems make their way across the Atlantic Ocean towards the Lesser Antilles, where they are most likely to develop into major cyclones.

2016 TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Alex | Lisa |
| Bonnie | Matthew |
| Colin | Nicole |
| Danielle | Otto |
| Earl | Paula |
| Fiona | Richard |
| Gaston | Shary |
| Hermine | Tobias |
| Ian | Virginie |
| Julia | Walter |
| Karl | |

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR AUGUST

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall normal	181.1 to 271.5mm	203.6 to 257.2mm
-highest total	539.4mm (2007)	457.3mm (2010)
-lowest total	102.0mm (1984)	80.1mm (1984)
Temperature	28.9°C	28.8°C
-maximum	35.4°C (2005)	34.3°C (1996)
-minimum	21.7°C (1996)	20.9°C (1992)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	40%	10%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	0%	0%

FARMING COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Wet and occasional windy conditions were experienced by farmers island wide for the month of July.
- ⇒ Heavy rainfall produced by a tropical wave on the 30th resulted in soil surface runoff on many farm lands that were cleared of weeds. Fertilizers and pesticides that were applied during that week had minimal impact on the nutrient uptake and health of the crops.
- ⇒ The establishment of citrus plants, root crops, vegetables, bananas and plantains were continued during the month of July.
- ⇒ Surveillance and management for the Black Sigatoka Disease is ongoing as the disease proliferates in cool, rainy and windy conditions.



- ⇒ Other pest and disease problems such as Fruit Flies and Giant African Snails were on a slight increase.
- ⇒ The Scale Insects are still a major concern. From field visits conducted the population of the disease has decreased and the natural enemies are on the increase. The Quarantine officers are continuing the release of natural enemies to combat the pests.
- ⇒ Livestock farmers continued taking precautionary measures with their animals. They are undertaking tick and flea treatment.
- ⇒ The recently held Rabbit Festival at Cochrane saw a variety of local rabbit meat dishes prepared by villagers and enjoyed by all patrons.

SEASONAL FORECASTS FOR AUGUST–OCTOBER 2016

The strong 2015-16 El Niño has ended giving way to ENSO-Neutral conditions. Most models indicate that La Niña (cooling of the Eastern Equatorial Pacific Ocean) will develop during August or September, with about 55-60% chance of La Niña conditions lasting towards the end of the 2016 Wet/Hurricane Season and into the 2017 Dry-Season. However the strength will most likely be weak. This usually results in an increase in rainfall amounts and a higher frequency of tropical storm development.

There is a low rainfall predictability for Dominica at this time. This means that rainfall totals could be above, normal or below the usual. Despite this an increase in rainfall days are forecast. See figure 2 below.

ASO 2016 Wet Days ($\geq 1.0\text{mm}$) Frequency Shift

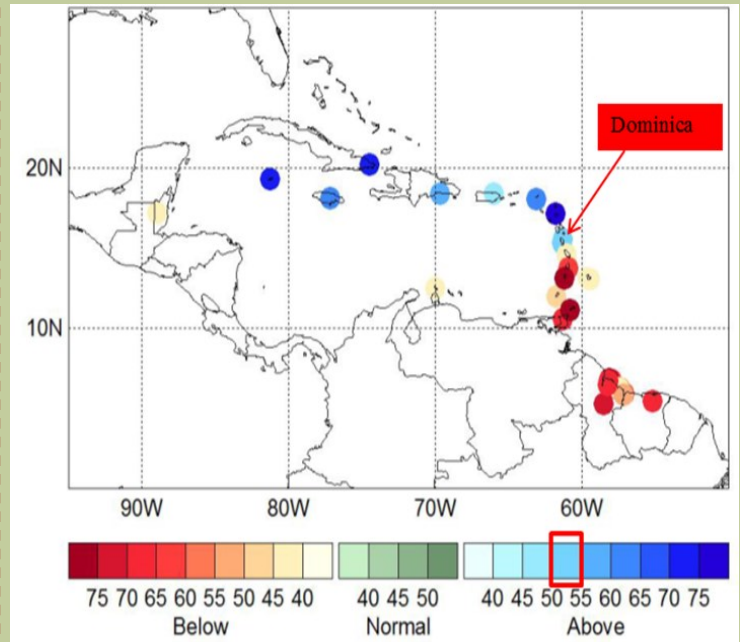


Figure 2. Wet Days Frequency Shift

Drought concerns at both the short term (May–October 2016) and long term (December 2015 – November 2016) have been alleviated. There are no drought concerns for Dominica.

Both day and night time temperatures are expected to remain above normal.

FARMING OUTLOOK

- ⇒ Good agricultural practices are essential to facilitate the reduction of pest and disease infestation in plants and also continued treatment against worms ticks, flees and other parasitic pest in livestock.
- ⇒ Farmers are urged to put into place all hurricane preparedness plans and take all precautionary measures as the peak of the hurricane season approaches.
- ⇒ It is also important to clear drains and culverts to prevent rain water from washing away top surface of feeder and farm roads.
- ⇒ Livestock farmers should remove their animals close to water ways, rivers, streams and low lying areas prone to flooding.
- ⇒ Bee farmers should plan for safeguarding their hives during any major tropical cyclone especially that apiaries across the island are now generating lower production levels as compared to last year .

MOON PHASES



NM: 02nd



FQ: 10th



FM: 18th



LQ: 25th

Agro-met bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-bulletins/agriculture-bulletin/>. 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 4457878, 767 4491990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline: 4475555