



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR JUNE 2012

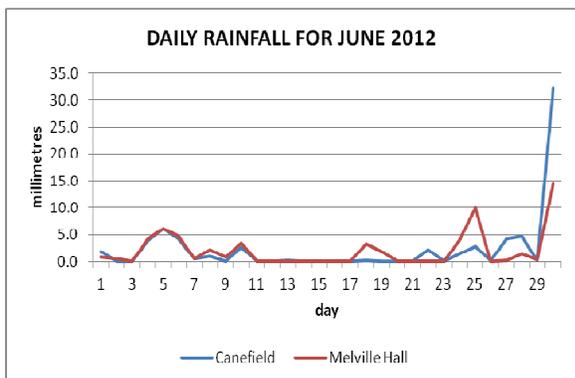


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall

June normally marks the start of the ‘rainy’ season in Dominica. This June however was unusually dry. 69.3mm/ 2.73in of rainfall were recorded at the Canefield Airport which was about 43% of the normal June rainfall. This June was the 5th driest since record-keeping began in 1982 and the 2nd driest in the last 10 years. A tropical wave which affected the area on the 30th produced the maximum daily total of 32.2mm/ 1.27in which was almost half of the monthly total. 18 dry days were recorded with 11 consecutive dry days spanning from the 2nd into the 3rd week.

59.5mm/ 2.34in of rainfall were recorded at the Melville Hall Airport. This was the 4th driest June on record since 1969. The monthly total was 31% of the normal June rainfall. The maximum daily total of 14.4mm was also recorded on the 30th. 19 dry days were recorded with 7

consecutive dry days during the 2nd and 3rd week.

On rain-fed farms, there have been reports of ‘browning’ occurring on parsley and celery and a mature plantain crop had to be cut as the trees dried up. Minimum planting of vegetables was observed in the field during the first 3 weeks of June; however root crops such as yams and potatoes were planted.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	69.3mm	59.5mm
Normal	159.5mm	191.0mm
No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm)	12	11
Average Temperature	29.6°C	29.3°C
Normal	29.1°C	28.5°C
Maximum Temperature	33.6°C (27 th)	32.4°C (6 th , 24 th , 25 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.9°C (4 th)	23.5°C (9 th)
Relative Humidity	58%	69%
Maximum wind gust	54km/h	54km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JULY

Canefield Airport:

Normally, 254.9mm/ 10.04in of rainfall and about 21 rainfall days are recorded in July. The highest rainfall total recorded for the month was 393.3mm/ 15.48in in 2010 and the lowest was 45.1mm/ 1.78in in 1994. Average daily temperature is 28.9°C while the average maximum is 32.9°C and the average minimum is 22.6°C.

Melville-Hall Airport:

Normally, 237.2mm/ 9.34in of rainfall are recorded and about 22 rainfall days for the month of July. The highest rainfall total recorded for the month was 459.2mm/ 18.08in in 2011 and the lowest total was 57.2mm/ 2.25in in 1975. Average daily temperature is 28.6°C while the average maximum is 31.5°C and the average minimum is 22.6°C.

will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 35% of being below normal.

- Air temperature at 2m is predicted to be slightly above normal.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

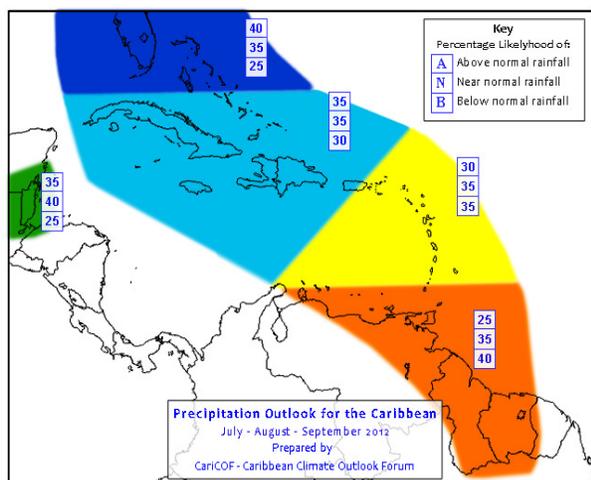


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: July-August-September 2012

- Models are indicating that during the period July-August-September, rainfall over Dominica is likely to be near normal to below normal.
- There is a 30% chance that rainfall total

With normal to below normal rainfall for this period being suggested, banana and plantain farmers should be vigilant in the fields as normal conditions increase the incidence of pest and diseases such as *yellow sigatoka* and the recently discovered *black sigatoka*. Plants which show symptoms should be de-leafed. Additionally, contact the Division of Agriculture at extensions 3803/3820 or your extension officer for further information.

Rainwater should be harvested for irrigation during heavy rainfall events as the uneven distribution of rainfall may be more significant than the actual amount.

Farmers may sow vegetable seeds and plant root crops such as dasheen while land preparation practices such as tilling may be undertaken.

Livestock farmers should undertake pasture development while allowing ruminants to graze in the open thus reducing the use of imported feed. Remember to de-worm your animals!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tripartite committee held inaugural meeting and will continue to discuss ways on improving the quality of information disseminated and sustainability of the bulletin. The online discussion on issues related to weather and climate influences on agriculture in the Caribbean can be accessed via <http://mail2.cimh.edu.bb/camionlineforum/>. The Met Service will continue its educational sessions with some community disaster groups in July. Feedback is welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin.

Moon Phases: NM: Jul 19, FQ: Jul 26; FM: Aug 2; LQ: Aug 9; NM Aug 17

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