



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR JULY 2012

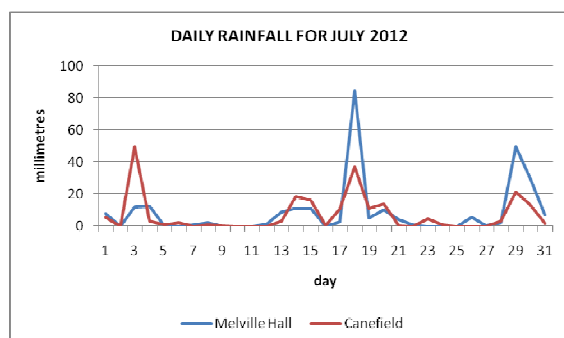


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall

A few tropical waves traversed the region during the month of July, thereby bringing much needed moisture to the island after an unusually dry June. 220.1mm/ 8.67in of rainfall were recorded at the Canefield Airport which represents about 90% of the monthly mean. The maximum daily total was 49.5mm/ 1.95in recorded on the 3rd. There were 17 rainfall days and a 6 days dry spell from the end of the first week into the second. The averaged air temperature was 29.2°C which is 0.3° above the mean.

At the Melville Hall Airport 271.3mm/ 10.68mm of rainfall was recorded which was approximately 14% above the monthly mean. The maximum daily total was 84.4mm/ 3.32in recorded on the 18th. 19 days of rainfall were recorded with no significant dry spells. The averaged air temperature was 29.0°C which is 0.4° above the mean.

Four thunderstorm days were reported at Canefield while 2 days were reported at Melville Hall. Haze was also recorded at both stations throughout the month.

For the past month, the Ministry of Agriculture has stepped up the fight against the *black sigatoka* fungus that is affecting banana and plantain crops. The implementation of additional safety practices on farms and supplying farmers who comply with insecticides and fungicides is the focus of the Ministry.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	220.1mm	271.3mm
Normal	251.4mm	237.2mm
No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm)	17	19
Average Temperature	29.2°C	29.0°C
Normal	28.9°C	28.6°C
Maximum Temperature	32.9°C (2 nd , 16 th)	32.4°C (3 rd , 4 th , 7 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.9°C (13 th)	23.1°C (27 th)
Relative Humidity	62%	73%
Maximum wind gust	56km/h	74km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR AUGUST

Canefield Airport:

Normally, 244.3mm/ 9.62in of rainfall and about 20 rainfall days are recorded. The highest rainfall total recorded for August was 539.4mm/ 21.24in in 2007 and the lowest was 102.0mm/ 4.02in in 1984. Average daily temperature is 28.9°C while the average

maximum is 33.1°C and the average minimum is 22.7°C.

Melville-Hall Airport:

Normally, 255.4mm/ 10.06in of rainfall are recorded and about 22 rainfall days. The highest rainfall total recorded for August was 457.3mm/ 18.00in in 2010 and the lowest total was 80.1mm/ 3.15in in 1984. Average daily temperature is 28.8°C while the average maximum is 31.9°C and the average minimum is 22.5°C.

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

- Air temperature expected to be lower this year though still likely to be above average.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

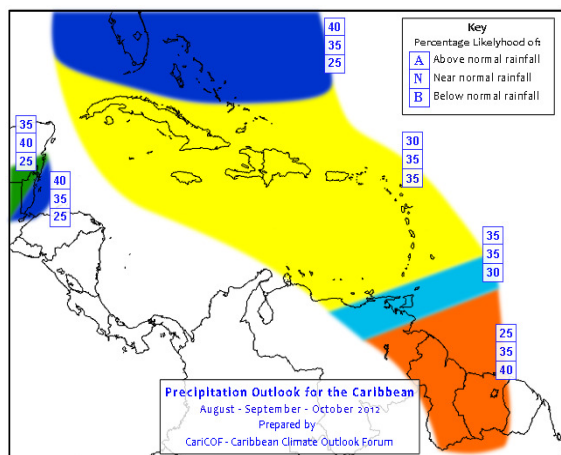


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: August-September-October 2012

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

With the trend of normal to below normal rainfall continuing this period, banana and plantain farmers should continue to be vigilant in the fields as high rainfall and wind events encourages the dispersal of fungal spores, thus increasing the incidence of pest and diseases such as *black sigatoka* and bay leaf rust.

When high winds threaten, greenhouse farmers should remember to remove their plastic coverings and passion fruit farmers should strengthen their canopy to prevent collapse of the structures. Livestock farmers are reminded to de-worm their animals and to relocate those in low-lying areas near waterways to higher elevations when a rainfall event is forecast.

Farmers should ensure that crops such as avocados, limes, kenips, hot peppers and others now in season are not harvested during rainfall events to prevent premature spoilage.

More rain, more snails, more slugs! Farmers are advised to apply slug bait and other pest control measures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Look out for the second farmers’ forum coming up before the end of September. 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/>. This month begins the period of increasing tropical cyclone activity. Continue being prepared!! Feedback is welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin.

Moon Phases: NM: Aug 17; FQ: Aug 24; FM: Aug 31; LQ: Sep 8; NM Sep 16

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