



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR AUGUST 2012

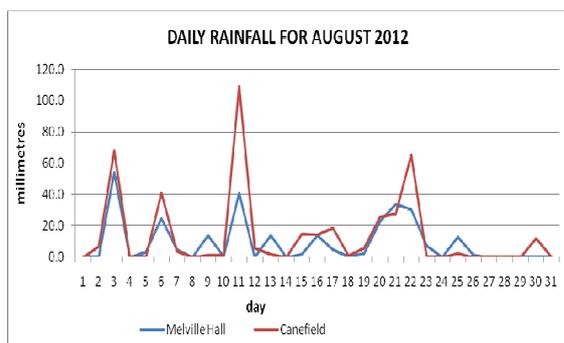


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall

During the month of August there was an increase in tropical cyclone activity which affected the island producing above normal monthly rainfall totals in Dominica.

At the Canefield Airport 426.0mm/ 16.77in of rainfall was accumulated, which was approximately 74% above the monthly mean. A maximum daily total of 109.0mm/ 4.29in was recorded on the 11th. Eighteen rainfall days were recorded with no significant dry spell. Five thunderstorm days were recorded. The averaged air temperature was 28.8°C, which is 0.1°C below the normal.

At the Melville Hall Airport 290.1mm/ 11.42mm of rainfall was recorded which was approximately 14% above the monthly mean. The maximum daily total was 54.5mm/ 2.15in recorded on the 03rd. There were 17 rainfall days and a 5 day dry spell during the last week of the month. Three thunderstorm days were

recorded. The averaged air temperature was 28.4°C which is 0.4°C below the normal.

The fight against black sigatoka remained the predominant activity among the farming community this month. The spraying and treatment of the disease was disrupted with the passage of the tropical cyclones which affected the island. Some farmers also sustained damages to their bananas and plantain plants as well as the loss of livestock, farms and access roads.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	426.0mm	290.1mm
Normal	244.3mm	255.4mm
No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm)	18	17
Average Temperature	28.8°C	28.4°C
Normal	28.9°C	28.8°C
Maximum Temperature	33.5°C (20 th)	31.6°C (31 st)
Minimum Temperature	20.9°C (26 th)	22.6°C (11 th)
Relative Humidity	66%	78%
Maximum wind gust	65km/h	94km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER

The peak months of the hurricane season runs from mid-August to early October. Climatologically September 10th is the peak of the season.

Canefield Airport:

Normally, 253.7mm/ 9.99in of rainfall and about 17 rainfall days are recorded. The highest

rainfall total recorded for September was 434.4mm/ 17.10in in 1996 and the lowest was 55.8mm/ 2.20in in 2003. Average daily temperature is 28.7°C with an average maximum of 33.4°C and an average minimum of 22.5°C.

Melville-Hall Airport:

Normally, 319.1mm/ 12.56in of rainfall are recorded and about 20 rainfall days. The highest rainfall total recorded for September was 569.1mm/ 22.41in in 1996 and the lowest total was 134.7mm/ 5.30in in 2001. Average daily temperature is 28.6°C with an average maximum of 32.2°C and an average minimum of 22.0°C.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

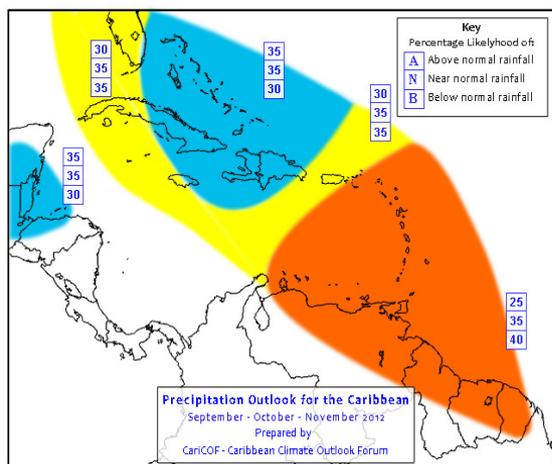


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: September-October-November 2012

- Models are indicating that during the period September-October-November, rainfall over Dominica is likely to be normal to below normal.

- There is a 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 40% of being below normal.
- Air temperature expected to be lower this year though still likely to be above average.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

With a normal to below normal rainfall event forecast, farmers are urged to conserve soil moisture by the use of various methods which includes the practice of mulching with dry matter e.g. materials from de-trashing. Also by keeping a low cover of grass when brush cutting or cutlassing.

Farmers should ensure that there is always the availability of water on their farms. If water is kept in drums do ensure that it is properly covered as to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. The use of locally developed irrigation systems can also be used upon advice.

High winds and rainfall are ideal for the spread of the black sigatoka disease. In the event of tropical cyclone activity farmers are urged to exercise caution when treating farms. They should also encourage good root systems to withstand strong winds. Those with greenhouses are asked to remove the covering to prevent it being blown away. Propping plants with cords or poles would also be an asset.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The second farmers' forum is scheduled for 10th September in Portsmouth. 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/>. Feedback is welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin.

Moon Phases: ● LQ: Sept.8th; ● NM: Sept.16th; ● FQ: Sept.22nd; ● FM: Sept.30th

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