



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2012

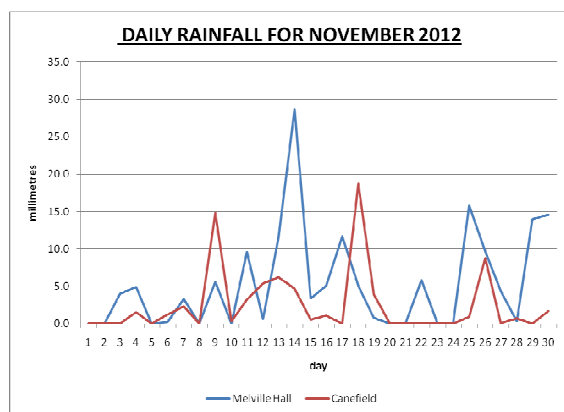


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall Airports

Below normal rainfall and above average temperature were recorded at both Canefield and Melville Hall Airports for November 2012.

At Canefield, 75.9mm of rainfall was recorded which represents about 39% of the monthly mean. The maximum daily total of 18.7mm of rainfall was recorded on the 18th. There were 17 dry days with the longest dry spell period of 6 days occurring during the latter half of the month. The averaged air temperature was 28.3°C which is 0.5° above the monthly mean.

At Melville Hall, 159.1mm of rainfall was recorded which represents about 46 % of the monthly mean. The maximum daily total of 28.7mm of rainfall was recorded on the 14th during the passage of a surface trough. There were 13 dry days with no significant dry spells. The averaged air temperature was 27.9°C which

is 0.5° above the monthly mean. 72% of possible sunshine hours were recorded for the month which is a record high for November since recordkeeping began in 1976.

The two stations have recorded below normal rainfall totals for the period Sept-Oct-Nov which have had significant impact on vegetable production. Huge losses have been recorded and consumers can expect shortages and inflated prices on the market in the coming month. There have been reports of tomatoes and peppers in greenhouses being affected by bacterial wilt; however, successful production is being undertaken in other areas.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	75.9mm	159.1mm
Normal	194.2mm	348.6mm
No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm)	13	17
Average Temperature	28.3°C	27.9°C
Normal	27.8°C	27.4°C
Maximum Temperature	33.3°C (13 th)	31.2°C (1 st , 2 nd , 22 nd)
Minimum Temperature	21.1°C (21 st)	20.8°C (21 st)
Relative Humidity	66%	75%
Maximum wind gust	35km/h	46km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

Canefield Airport:

Normally, 102.2mm/ 4.02in of rainfall and about 16 rainfall days are recorded. The highest rainfall total recorded for December was

213.4mm/ 8.40in in 1998 and the lowest was 23.8mm/ 0.94in in 2010. Average daily temperature is 26.9°C with an average maximum of 31.5°C and an average minimum of 20.4°C.

Melville-Hall Airport:

On average 219.2mm/ 8.63in of rainfall are recorded and about 20 rainfall days. The highest rainfall total on record is 631.4mm/ 24.86in in 2001 and the lowest total is 91.2mm/ 3.59in in 2009. Average daily temperature is 26.6°C with an average maximum of 30.0°C and an average minimum of 20.1°C.

forecast in the period November 2012-February 2013 in Dominica.

- There is a 40% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 25% chance of being below normal.
- Air temperature could be either slightly above normal or be significantly above normal. Sea temperatures currently hover around average.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

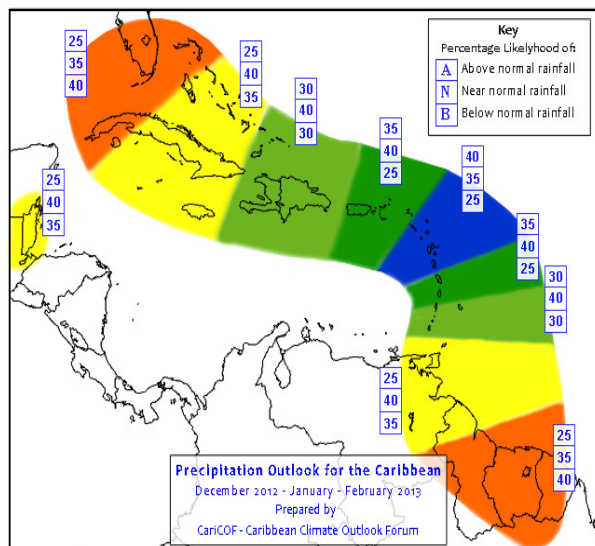


Figure 2: Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: December 2012-February 2013 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall)

- Normal to above normal rainfall is

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

With models indicating normal to above normal rainfall amounts, farmers should take the opportunity to plant crops that are in shortage on the market particularly vegetables. Be mindful that these coming months mark the beginning of our 'dry' season and water harvesting practices are encouraged.

Farmers are commended for the work done in undertaking control measures against the *black sigatoka* and citrus greening and are encouraged to continue doing so. Abandoned fields in particular are in need of attention.

To control the spread of leptospirosis and dengue fever, farmers should take extra care in cleaning their farms to minimize rat infestations and the breeding of mosquitoes. Rat baits and cats can be used as control measures and water storage containers should be kept covered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!!! 50% of climate models are predicting a re-emergence of borderline El Niño conditions in the next months... 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: ● **NM: Dec 13** ● **FQ: Dec 20** ● **FM: Dec 28** ● **LQ: Jan 5**

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