



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR OCTOBER 2013

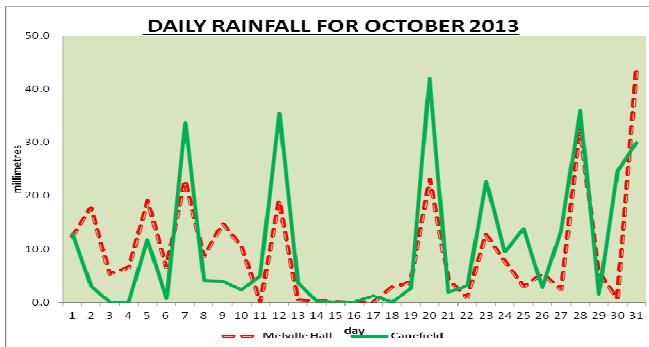


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Unstable conditions and tropical waves affected the island throughout the month producing most of the rainfall amounts.

The month of October was recorded as the wettest month of 2013 so far and also the wettest October for the past 12 years at the Canefield Airport. A total of 321.4mm was recorded and that is 71% above average. The highest daily total recorded was 42.0mm on the 20th. There were 24 rainfall days and that is 8 days above the normal. Dry spells length was insignificant. The average air temperature recorded was 28.0°C and this is 0.5°C below normal. The highest daily temperature recorded was 34.1°C on the 3rd with the lowest being 22.0°C recorded on the 9th. The average wind direction was south easterly (140°) at an average speed of 7km/h.

Despite rainfall total being 8% below normal, the Melville Hall Airport also experienced wet conditions throughout. A total of 293.8mm was recorded. The highest daily total of 44.2mm was associated with unstable conditions on the 31st. Twenty-three (23) rainfall days were recorded and that is normal for

October with a mid month dry spell of 5 days in length. The average air temperature recorded was 28.4°C and that is 0.2°C above average. The highest temperature recorded was 32.3°C on the 1st and the lowest recorded was 23.2°C on the 2nd. Melville Hall also experienced winds from the south east (140°) at 11km/h.

Wet conditions experienced throughout the island produced favourable conditions for plant growth especially in the eastern region.

On the downside cucumbers saw an increase in powdery mildew. Some farmers with poor drainage systems experienced loss of crops due to flooding. The Black Sigatoka Disease continued to spread across the island.

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR OCTOBER

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	133.7mm	326.5mm
30 year average	253.7mm	319.1mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	12	19
Temperature	29.0°C	28.6°C
30 year average	28.7°C	28.6°C
Maximum Temperature	34.3°C (28 th)	32.1°C (29 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.2°C (22 nd)	22.9°C (21 st)
Relative Humidity	65%	79%
Maximum wind gust	41km/h	50km/h

2013 HURRICANE NAMES

~~Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, Wendy.~~

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	194.2mm	348.6mm
-highest total	438.3mm (1984)	912.0mm (2004)
-lowest total	28.4mm (2001)	97.2mm (1983)
Temperature	27.8°C	27.4°C
-maximum	33.7°C (1997)	32.8°C (1999)
-minimum	19.4°C (2008)	18.9°C (2010)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	77%	27%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	20%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for November

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

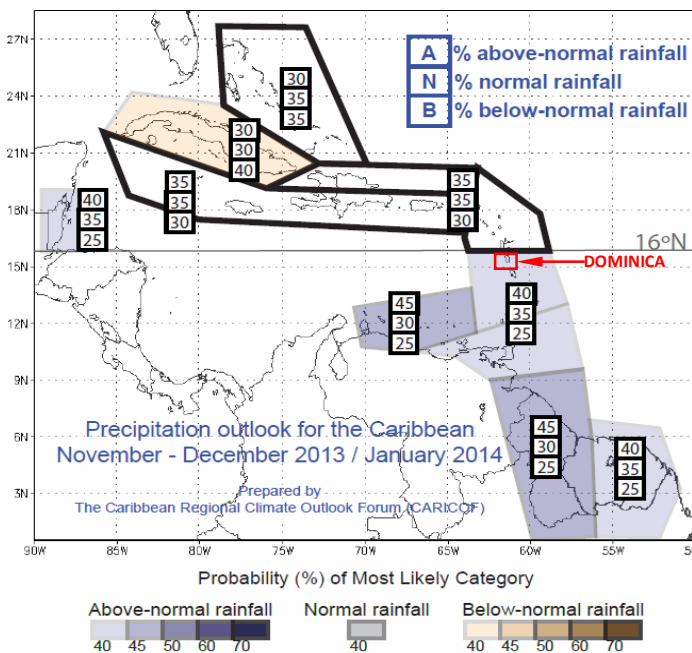


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: November-December 2013 - January 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

- ✚ Above to normal rainfall and air temperature is expected with a seventy-five percent (75%) confidence for rainfall and an eighty percent (80%) confidence for air temperature.
- ✚ There is a 40% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being normal and a 25% chance of being below normal.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

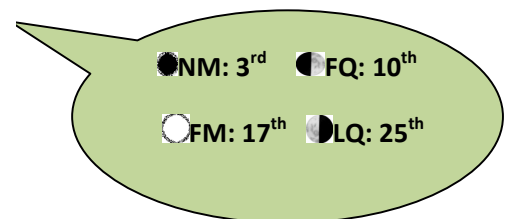
Spraying for the Black Sigatoka Disease is scheduled to take place in the east region.



High rainfall and humidity in which bananas are grown are especially favorable for the development of the disease. The fungus that causes Black Sigatoka is spread from tree to tree by wind, rain, and irrigation water.

The 2013 hurricane season ends on November 30th. Please continue to be vigilant.

Moon Phases



Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.

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

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