



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR DECEMBER 2013

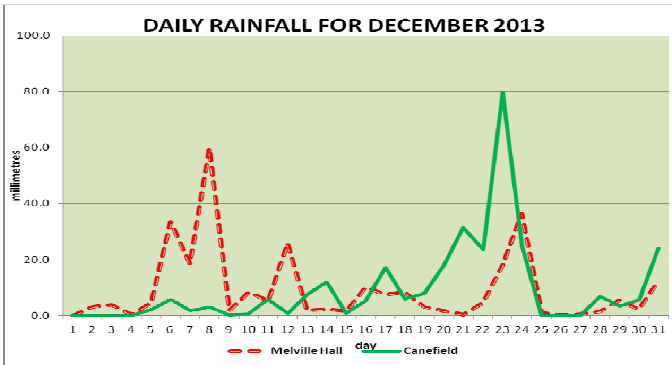


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Moisture and instability associated with trough systems accounted for above normal rainfall totals. These systems continued to show their dominance by producing heavy rainfall which dampened the Christmas spirit on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There was the flooding of the Picard River in the north on the 8<sup>th</sup> and extensive flooding in the southern communities on the 24<sup>th</sup> leaving behind extensive damage to properties.

December 2013 is recorded as the wettest December for over 30 years. It was also the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest month for 2013 at the Canefield Airport. A total of 294.2mm was recorded and that is almost 3 times more than average. The highest daily total recorded was 79.7mm on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were 20 rainfall days and that is 5 days above the normal. There was a 4 day dry spell at the start of month.

Melville Hall Airport also experienced wet conditions with rainfall total being 30% above average. A total of 284.3mm was recorded. The highest daily total recorded was 59.7mm on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-six (26) rainfall days were recorded and that is 6 days above normal. There were no significant dry spells.

Crop productions were significantly affected this month due to very wet conditions across the island. In the south there were establishments of onion and Irish potato crops. The vegetable season saw a decrease in production. Lettuce was the only crop in abundance this month. Crops, for example cabbages and herbs, were significantly infected with fungal diseases.

Major crop losses were experienced as a result of flooding caused by heavy rainfall on Christmas Eve. There were significant erosions in the south to recently established Irish potato, vegetable, citrus and dasheen fields.

## MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	294.2mm	284.3mm
30 year average	102.2mm	219.2mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	20	26
Temperature	26.7°C	26.4°C
30 year average	26.9°C	26.6°C
Maximum Temperature	32.0°C (5 <sup>th</sup> )	30.6°C (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	19.0°C (22 <sup>nd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> )	21.0°C (7 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	67%	77%
Maximum wind gust	46km/h	74km/h

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

## SUMMARY FOR 2013

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	2219.1mm	2867.1mm
30 year average	1759.8mm	2652.7mm
Temperature	27.8°C	27.5°C
30 year average	27.9°C	27.5°C
Maximum Temperature	35.0°C (17 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	32.3°C (1 <sup>st</sup> Oct)
Minimum Temperature	19.0°C (15 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb.)	17.6°C (14 <sup>th</sup> Mar)

Table 2 2013 summary

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JANUARY**

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	108.3mm	136.0mm
-highest total	228.2mm (2011)	249.0mm (1998)
-lowest total	31.3mm (2001)	68.6mm (1989)
Temperature	26.4°C	26.1°C
-maximum	32.0°C (2005)	31.8°C (1987)
-minimum	18.2°C (2008)	17.1°C (1988)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	71%	39%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	36%	3%

Table 3 Climate summary for January

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**

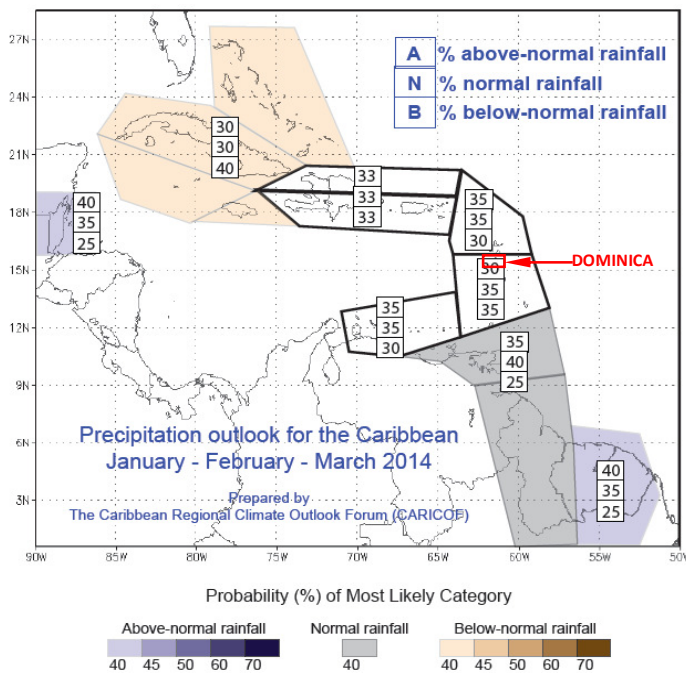


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: January – February – March 2014 (colored areas represent sub-regions in which the probabilities fall).

- Below or normal rainfall and above to normal air temperature is expected with seventy percent (70%)
- There is a 30% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being normal and a 35% chance of being below normal.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

January is marked as the official start of the dry season. Normal to below normal rainfall has been forecasted for the island.

However, due to the high amounts of rainfall received during the past weeks leaving soils waterlogged, farmers are asked to take precautionary measures as pests, diseases and crop rot may increase.

Control weeds to reduce the amount of moisture in the fields.

Livestock owners should pay particular attention to the hooves of their animals as foot-rot may occur.

Farmers using the cut-and-carry system should remember to wilt the grass before feeding as excess water in fresh grass may lead to loose stools.

Remember to de-worm animals regularly for best results.

Moon phases: ● NM: 3<sup>rd</sup> ● FQ: 10<sup>th</sup> ● FM: 17<sup>th</sup> ● LQ: 25<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm)

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