



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JANUARY 2015

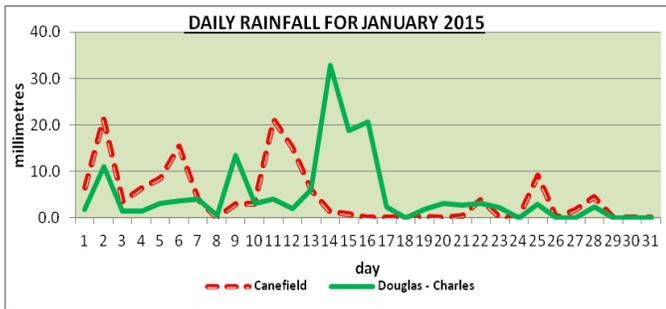


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR JANUARY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	136.5mm	148.8mm
30 year average	108.3mm	136.0mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	17	23
Temperature	26.5°C	26.3°C
30 year average	26.4°C	26.1°C
Maximum Temperature	31.3°C (10 th)	29.2°C (10 th)
Minimum Temperature	21.0°C (9 th)	19.1°C (31 st)
Relative Humidity	66%	75%
Maximum wind gust	46km/h	63km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 36mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

The Canefield Airport recorded a total of 136.5mm of rainfall. This total is 28.2mm above the monthly mean. The month's highest daily rainfall total was 21.3mm recorded on the 2nd. Rainfall days were normal with a total of 17 days recorded. The maximum dry spell length recorded was 7 days during mid-month.

The Douglas-Charles Airport recorded a monthly total of 148.8mm of rainfall. This total is 12.8mm more than the monthly mean. The highest rainfall total recorded was 32.9mm on the 14th. There were 23 rainfall days

just 4 days above the normal. There were no significant dry spells.

Generally, farmers who were engaged in production reported adequate levels of rainfall for the month of January. Strong winds experienced during the earlier part of the month resulted in damages to several agricultural commodities.

Vegetable supplies at the market were relatively low for the month due to high intensity in rainfall over the past four to five months. With a decrease in night time temperature and adequate levels of rainfall, vegetable supplies should increase in the upcoming months. Root crop farmers continued the establishment of dasheen, tannia, sweet potato and yams in all seven agricultural regions.

Pest and diseases which were reported to have affected vegetable production were mainly mole crickets. Fungi and slugs reports were minimal.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY

We are entering the core of the dry season. Heavy showers are mostly limited in area and duration.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	62.1mm	97.5mm
-highest total	131.5mm (1982)	196.6mm (1989)
-lowest total	0.4mm (2010)	4.2mm (2010)
Temperature	26.4°C	25.9°C
-maximum	32.5°C (2010)	31.9°C (1998)
-minimum	18.0°C (2008)	17.0°C (1988))
Chance of 5 day dry spell	97%	40%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	37%	17%

Table 2 Climate summary for February

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

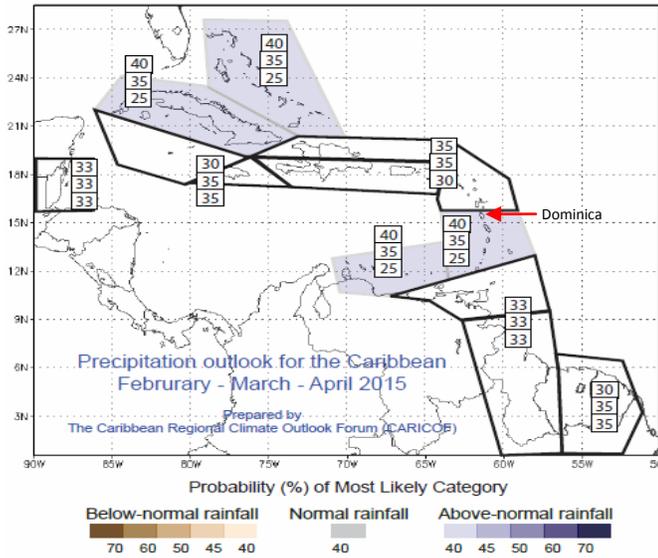
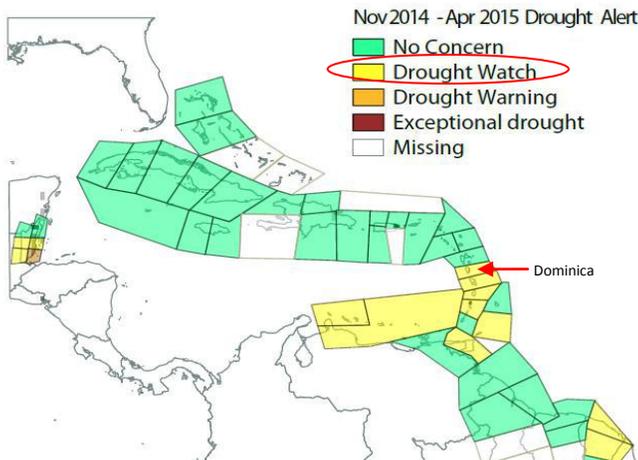


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: February-March-April 2015

- Rainfall amounts and air temperature are expected to be above- to normal with 75% confidence.
- There is a 40% chance of above normal, 35% normal and 25% below normal rainfall amounts.

REGIONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK



**Dominica is under a drought watch (drought possible)
Keep updated, conserve resources and water.**

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

Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline: 447 5555

Long-term:

- ❖ Because of below normal rainfall during the wet season, water shortages may occur in portions of the Antilles during the dry season, which is our tourist season.
- ❖ Chances are that an El Niño may evolve. El Niño often results in a drier dry season. However, above-average temperatures in the Atlantic suggest a wetter dry season. Regardless, areas with existing water shortages may not see any improvement until late in the dry season.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

- Farmers are encouraged to continue doing their field sanitation measures such as de-leafing and nutrient management.
- As we enter another carnival season, revelers are reminded that carnival costumes are not to be made with banana or plantain leaves. In addition we applaud all those who complied with the rule last year.
- Farmers should engage in composting for the upcoming months.
- Ensure that your water storage is adequate for the upcoming dry period.
- Livestock farmers should start taking precautionary measures to ensure that all food medicine and water supplies for the dry season is adequate for their animals

☉ FM: 3rd ☾ LQ: 12th ● NM: 18th ☽ FQ: 25th