



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

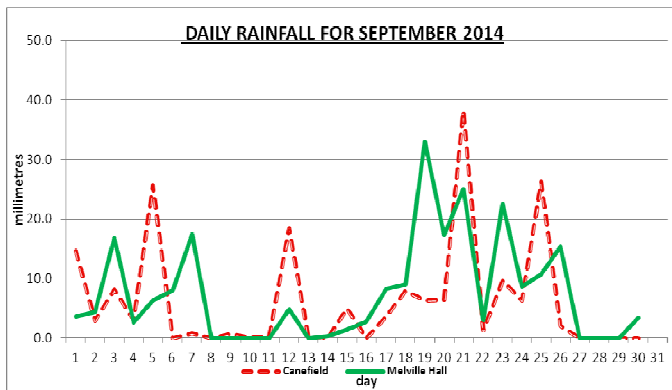


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Melville Hall Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	187.6mm	225.0mm
30 year average	253.7mm	319.1mm
Wet Days (>1.0mm)	17	21
Temperature	28.4°C	28.3°C
30 year average	28.7°C	28.6°C
Maximum Temperature	33.7°C (12 <sup>th</sup> )	31.7°C (29 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	21.9°C (28 <sup>th</sup> )	21.6°C (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	69%	78%
Maximum wind gust	28km/h	72km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 00mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

September, the wettest month on average along the west coast and the beginning of increased rainfall amounts in other areas, saw below normal rainfall amounts being recorded at the Canefield and Melville Hall Airports. Tropical waves and trough systems contributed to rainfall amounts.

At the Canefield Airport a total of 187.6mm of rainfall was recorded which is 74% of the mean. The highest daily total recorded was 38.1mm on the 21<sup>st</sup> as a tropical wave affected the area. There were 17 rainfall

days which is normal and a 6-days dry spell from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.

Melville Hall Airport recorded a monthly rainfall total of 225.0mm which is 71% of the mean. The highest daily total recorded was 33.0mm on the 19<sup>th</sup> due to the passage of a trough system. There were 21 rainfall days with no significant dry spells. The highest wind gust recorded was 65km/h on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

While the eastern and western regions reported drier than normal conditions, farming practices were not impacted and fertilizing, harvesting and land preparations went on as planned. In the southern region however, warm temperatures and increased rainfall resulted in considerable reduction in vegetables yields (tomatoes, carrots, lettuce). Losses in cabbage as a result of rot were experienced. Meanwhile, ground provisions, sorrel and culinary herbs are in good supply.

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 2014

Normally, very wet; frequent heavy rainfall, tropical storms and hurricanes.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville Hall Airport
Rainfall	188.2mm	319.8mm
-highest total	439.1mm (1985)	644.9mm (1998)
-lowest total	27.6mm (1992)	94.2mm (1991)
Temperature	28.5°C	28.2°C
-maximum	34.3°C (2009)	33.5°C (1999)
-minimum	20.8°C (1994)	17.2°C (1995)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	68%	28%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	11%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for October

**SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**

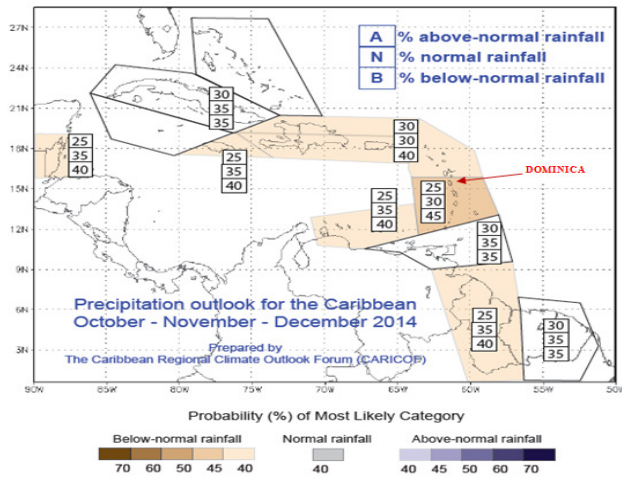


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: October-November-December 2014

- Below to normal rainfall is expected with 70% confidence and above to normal air temperature with 80% confidence.
- There is 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, 30% chance of being normal and 45% chance of being below normal.

**DROUGHT OUTLOOK**

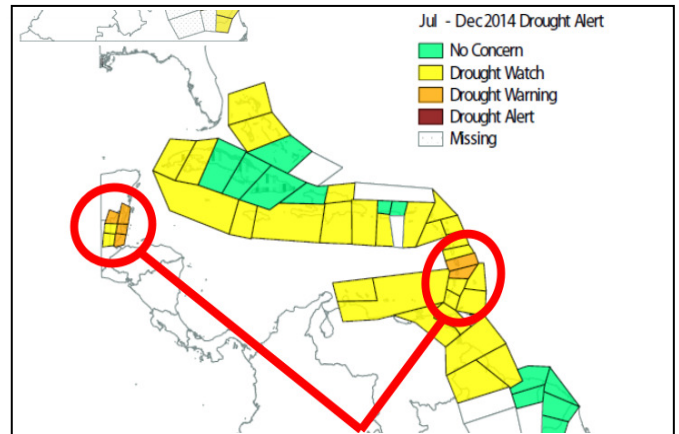


Figure 3 Drought Outlook to end of December

**This month's update:** Drought continues to evolve over Belize, Dominica and Martinique. Conserve water!

**2014 HURRICANE NAMES:**

~~Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard~~, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky, Wilfred

☐ FQ: 1<sup>st</sup>    ○ FM: 8<sup>th</sup>    ◐ LQ: 15<sup>nd</sup>    ● NM: 23<sup>rd</sup>

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

- In areas of high rainfall, ensure that storm drains are clear of debris.
- Take advantage of the wet season to purchase citrus plants. Seek advice from your extension officer on varieties, planting, bearing dates and management. Be mindful on a possible drier than normal dry season.
- Irish potato season is open and seeds should be on island the third week of October. Start preparing lands for the arrival of seeds.
- This month, the Central Region along with CARDI is collaborating on the establishment of an experimental plot for two new varieties of sweet potato.
- In managing *Black Sigatoka*, maintain at least 8 clear leaves on the plant. Waste material can be used for compost as an alternative nutritional source of input for crops.

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). Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: [www.weather.gov.dm](http://www.weather.gov.dm) Hotline: 447 555. Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/>.