



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR APRIL 2015

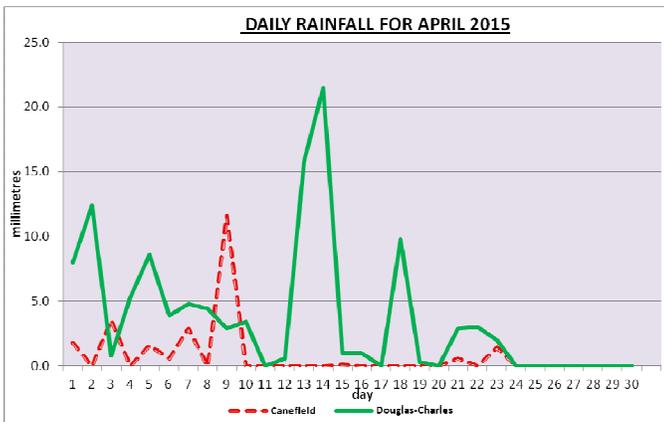


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

## MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR APRIL

| Parameter                    | Canefield Airport                             | Douglas-Charles Airport    |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Rainfall Total               | 24.1mm  | 112.4mm                    |
| 30 year normal               | 30.1 to 58.2mm                                | 92.2 to 162.9mm            |
| Wet Days (>1.0mm)            | 6   | 17                         |
| Temperature                  | 28.0°C  | 27.0°C                     |
| 30 year average              | 27.9°C  | 27.2°C                     |
| Maximum Temperature          | 33.8°C (26 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> ) | 30.5°C (30 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| Minimum Temperature          | 21.1°C (5 <sup>th</sup> )                     | 19.7°C (5 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| Relative Humidity            | 63%   | 73%                        |
| Maximum wind gust            | 50km/h  | 57km/h                     |
| Average daily sunshine hours | -   | 8hrs 24mins                |

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

**Canefield Airport** recorded 24.1mm of rainfall which is below-normal. The month's highest daily rainfall total was 11.6mm recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 6 rainfall days. There were 2 dry spells from the 10<sup>th</sup>; the first was of 13 days and the second of 7 days.

Normal rainfall, 112.4mm, was recorded at **Douglas-Charles Airport**. The highest rainfall total recorded was

21.5mm on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 17 rainfall days, 2 days more than normal. There was a 7-day dry spell towards the end of the month.

Light showers were observed in the Central and West regions during the first week of the month which was followed by a dry spell which lasted the rest of the month. The dry conditions impacted vegetation and crops such as melons and pumpkins which were significantly affected by leaf curling. Onions were also affected and 35% of the crop was lost. Bush fires were also observed.

The other regions reported normal rainfall amounts and an increase in vegetable production. The North East reported another successful onion season. In the North the banana plantlets (resistant to *Black Sigatoka*) at the smart greenhouse are developing and will soon be available for selected farmers. The farmers in The Valley were significantly affected by the diamond black moth, *Plutella xylostella*, as they were not able to apply the recommended insecticide due to frequent light showers.

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR MAY

| Parameter                  | Canefield Airport | Douglas-Charles Airport |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Rainfall                   | 92.0mm            | 244.5mm                 |
| -highest total             | 298.3mm (1987)    | 815.7mm (1987)          |
| -lowest total              | 9.8mm (2007)      | 12.1mm (2001)           |
| Temperature                | 28.8°C            | 28.0°C                  |
| -maximum                   | 34.6°C (2005)     | 33.0°C (2010)           |
| -minimum                   | 20.5°C (1989)     | 19.8°C (1984/1986)      |
| Chance of 5 day dry spell  | 96%               | 53%                     |
| Chance of 10 day dry spell | 50%               | 17%                     |

Table 2 Climate summary for May

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS**

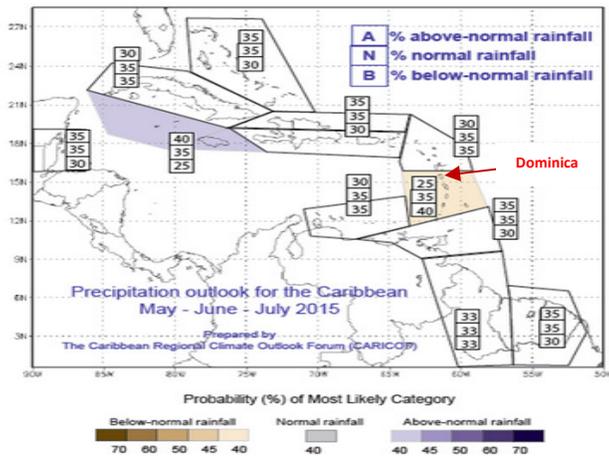
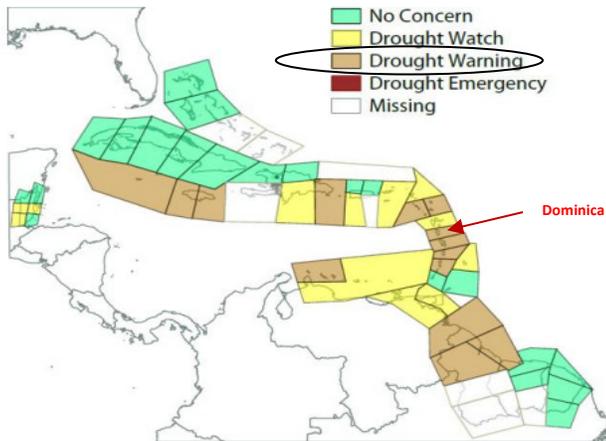


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: May-June-July 2015

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

**REGIONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK**



No concern for drought exists over the next three months. However, a drought warning continues for impactful hydrological drought, that is, impact on large surface water reserves at the end of the dry season.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

Water conservation is being emphasized particularly in areas where water is not readily available.

Techniques such as mulching and the use of compost can assist in the reduction of soil water evaporation.

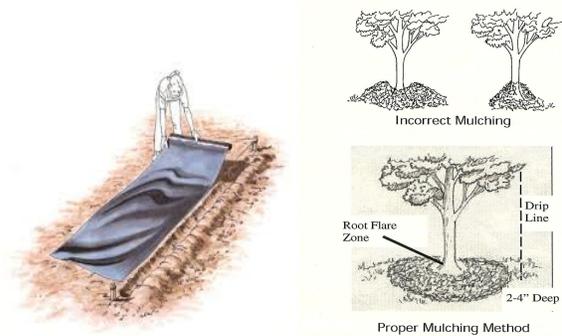


Figure 3 Mulching Methods

Livestock should be provided with sufficient amounts of water to prevent dehydration and some form of shelter during very warm days.

Refrain from burning techniques to clear lands.

Farmers selected for banana plants should begin clearing the land in preparation for establishment.

FM: 3<sup>rd</sup> LQ: 11<sup>th</sup> NM: 17<sup>th</sup> FQ: 25<sup>th</sup>

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via [http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional\\_bulletin.html](http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional_bulletin.html)

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 5555