



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 4 Issue 2

May 2015

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR MAY 2015

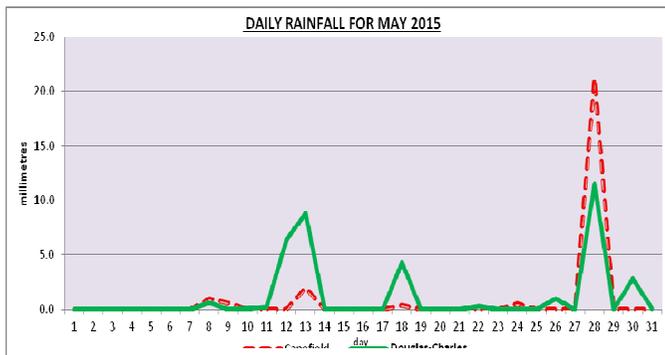


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR MAY

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	25.7mm	36.1mm
30 year normal	44.8 to 116.9mm	139.1 to 262.9mm
Wet Days (≥1.0mm)	3	6
Temperature	29.3°C	28.2°C
30 year average	28.8°C	28.0°C
Maximum Temperature	33.8°C (30 th)	30.7°C (4 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.0°C (26 th)	20.6°C (5 th)
Relative Humidity	57%	69%
Maximum wind gust	34km/h	48km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	9hrs 12mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

Canefield Airport recorded 25.7mm of rainfall which is below-normal. The month's highest daily rainfall total was 21.2mm recorded on the 28th during the passage of a tropical wave. There were only 3 rainfall days.

Below-normal rainfall, 36.1mm, was also recorded at **Douglas-Charles Airport**. The highest rainfall total recorded was 11.5mm on the 28th. There were only 6 rainfall days.

The dry season has significantly affected all the seven agricultural regions and forestry and wildlife division. Reports indicated that a large number of crops suffered from water stress due to below normal rainfall. Young plantain stems have lost their leaves or dried up, dasheen not planted in swamps saw losses as much as 45% and sweet potatoes in heavy clay soils could not be harvested.

The only crops which were not affected by the high temperatures and lack of rainfall were pineapples and passionfruits. There was a slight increase in passionfruit production though reports indicated that some trellises were affected by bushfires. Ginger was also established. The West Region saw bushfires which lasted more than three days. The division of Forestry and Wildlife indicated that there were a number of bushfires and a few frogs died due to the dry conditions.

Black Sigatoka incidents decreased in most of the regions.

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JUNE

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall	159.5mm	191.0mm
-highest total	381.3mm (2006)	424.3mm (1987)
-lowest total	54.6mm (1985)	43.1mm (1989)
Temperature	29.0°C	28.5°C
-maximum	34.8°C (1991)	33.7°C (1985)
-minimum	21.5°C (2009)	21.0°C (1985)
Chance of 5 day dry spell	80%	40%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	27%	7%

Table 2 Climate summary for June

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

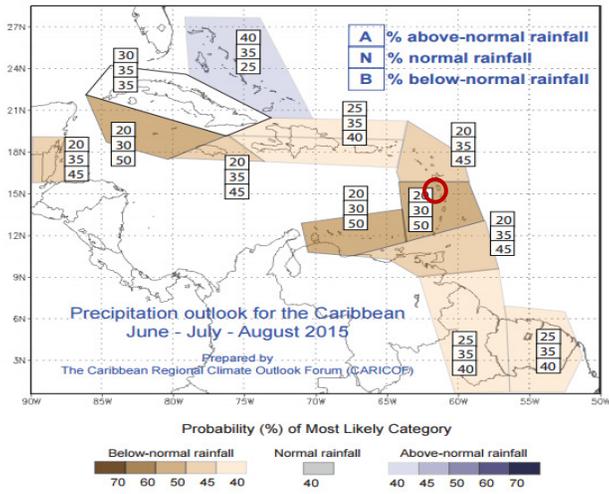
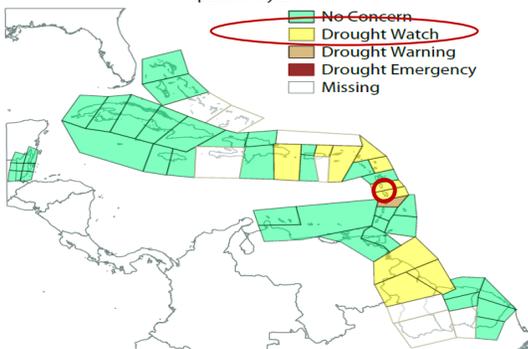


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: Jun-Jul-Aug 2015

- Rainfall total by end of August is expected to be below normal. Late start to the rains. Air temperature expected to be above normal.
- There is a 20% chance of above normal, 30% normal and 50% below normal rainfall amounts.

REGIONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Drought alert outlook - concerns by the end of 2015 Hurricane Season
Updated May 2015



FM: 2nd LQ: 9th NM: 16th FQ: 24th

While no concern for drought exists by the end of August, some concern for impactful drought exists by the end of the wet season.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Based on the forecast for the dry conditions to persist in some areas:

Listen to the daily weather report to know what to expect and to plan accordingly

Liaise with your extension service to review and update your strategic drought/hurricane plans

Farmers especially in the Northeast and West of the island incorporate water management on farms.

- Irrigate any new crop establishment. Sufficient irrigation is needed for crops such as vegetables and other short term crops
- Supply enough water for livestock operation
- Plastic and/or grass mulching is necessary for soil moisture conservation
- Water can be transported to the farms
- Set up drums/ containers to collect rainwater on farms in a safe manner

Pest and disease management should be considered, for example, the application of chemicals to treat the deadly *Black Sigatoka*.

2015 HURRICANE NAMES: Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via http://63.175.159.26/cami/regional_bulletin.html. Climatologists/ meteorologists and stakeholders met for the wet season Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum at the end of May. The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season has begun.

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 metoffice@cwdom.dm/ or aictudoa@gmail.com