



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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September 2015

## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

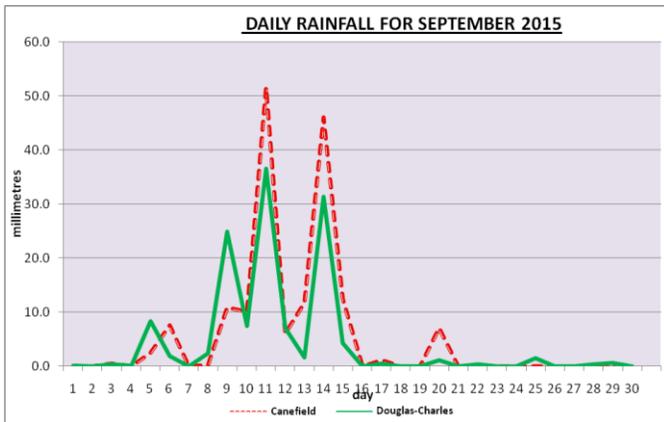


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	168.6mm	130.8mm
30 year normal	201.7 to 280.8mm	245.9 to 342.8mm
Wet Days ( $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$ )	11	12
Temperature	29.1°C	28.6°C
30 year average	28.7°C	28.8°C
Maximum Temperature	34.3°C (9 <sup>th</sup> )	32.6°C (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Minimum Temperature	21.8°C (12 <sup>th</sup> )	22.6°C (12 <sup>th</sup> )
Relative Humidity	70	76%
Maximum wind gust	41km/h	49km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	8hrs 18mins

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

The first half of the month was very wet as the island was affected by the remnants of Grace from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> and a few tropical waves. About 95% and 97% of the month's rainfall total was measured at the **Canefield** and **Douglas-Charles Airports**, respectively, during that period, leaving the latter part of the month extremely dry. Some flash flooding was reported in

already unstable areas on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Overall however, both stations measured below normal rainfall amounts for September.

The most affected areas during tropical storm Erika were the Central, West and South regions. A month later, farmers are still recovering from significant damage to farm access roads and property and are in the process of clearing debris, cleaning and planting. Road bypasses have been completed in heavily farmed areas such as Belles and Carholme.

There was significant erosion of top soil in affected areas making the land unsuitable for planting while poor water quality resulted in chicken mortality on poultry farms. Heavy silted rivers and streams also caused flash floods during the earlier part of the month further damaging feeder roads. Farmers are also faced with the issue of praedial larceny.

Few wet days were observed during the latter part of the month which limited crop establishment and production and rainwater harvesting.

Vegetables and root crops, passion fruit and avocados were harvested during the month.

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



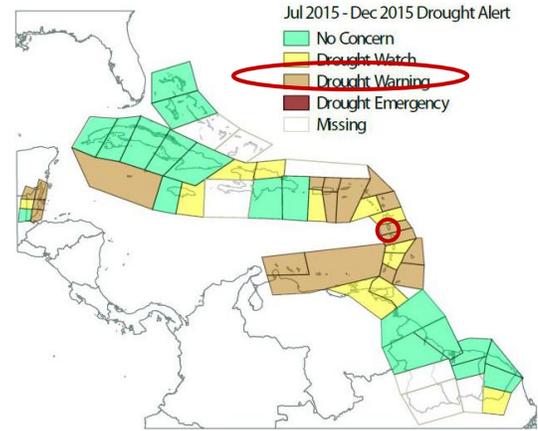
**CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER**

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles 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%	24%
Chance of 10 day dry spell	11%	0%

Table 2 Climate summary for September

**DROUGHT OUTLOOK**

The dry conditions appear to be resurfacing and the drought warning remains in effect. Release public service announcements, conserve water, report impacts.



**REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS**

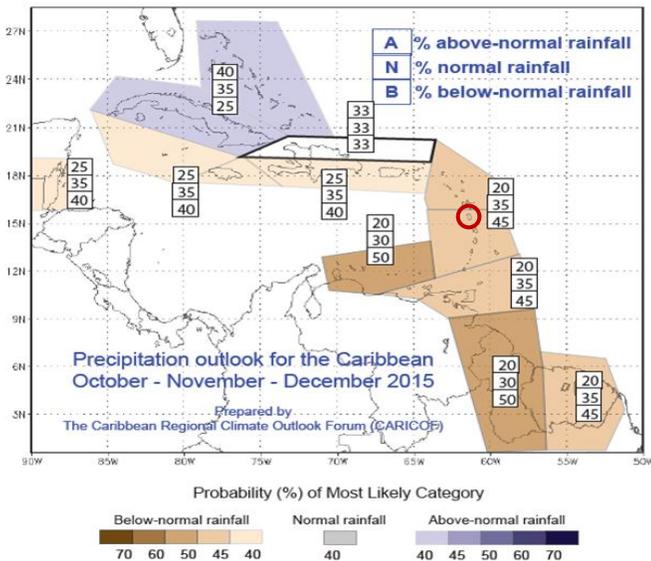


Figure 2 Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean: Oct-Nov-Dec 2015

- Dry conditions with fewer wet days and wet spells than normal are expected to continue towards the end of October. There is 20% chance of above normal, 35% normal and 45% below normal rainfall amounts
- Air temperature expected to be above normal

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY**

Assessments are still ongoing and farmers should contact their extension officer and complete the Division of Agriculture’s Assessment of Agriculture Enterprise form.

Precaution must still be taken when visiting areas affected by land and mud slides.

Proper agricultural practices and disaster risk management techniques must be performed at all times and should be incorporated into everyday farm activities.

Large amounts of organic material should be used on farms affected by run-off; systems should be set-up to collect as much rainfall that is available while mulching should be employed to reduce soil moisture evaporation. Storm drains should be maintained and kept free from debris in case of high rainfall events.

Remain vigilant and report incidences of praedial larceny to your district police station.

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 [metoffice@cwdom.dm](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm) or [aictudoa@gmail.com](mailto:aictudoa@gmail.com)

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