



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 4 Issue 9

December 2015

## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR DECEMBER

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
<b>Rainfall Total</b>	139.7mm	66.5mm (lowest on record)
<b>30 year normal</b>	76.7 to 113.6mm	140.7 to 209.6mm
<b>Wet Days (≥1.0mm)</b>	19 ( above normal)	17 ( above normal)
<b>Temperature</b>	27.5°C	27.4°C
<b>30 year average</b>	26.9°C	26.6°C
<b>Maximum Temperature</b>	32.1°C (8th )	30.8°C (15th )
<b>Minimum Temperature</b>	21.7°C (17th )	20.4°C (17th )
<b>Relative Humidity</b>	67%	75%
<b>Maximum wind gust</b>	63km/h	57km/h
<b>Average daily sunshine hours</b>	-	7hrs

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

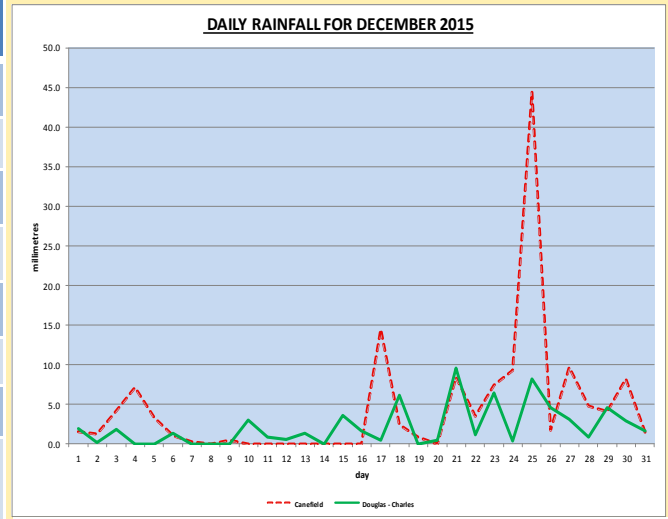


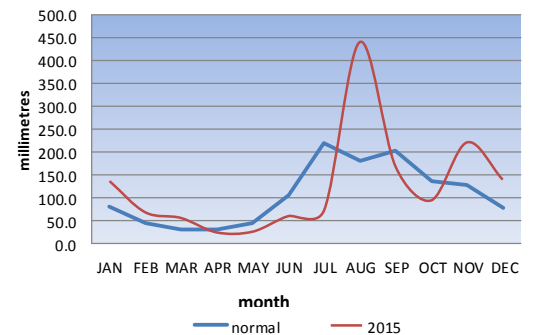
Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

The Atlantic high pressure system dominated the weather conditions for the month of December 2015. Low level clouds which moved along with the brisk trade wind flow produced frequent light shower activity. The island experienced normal to moderate dry conditions for the month. Breezy conditions were also recorded.

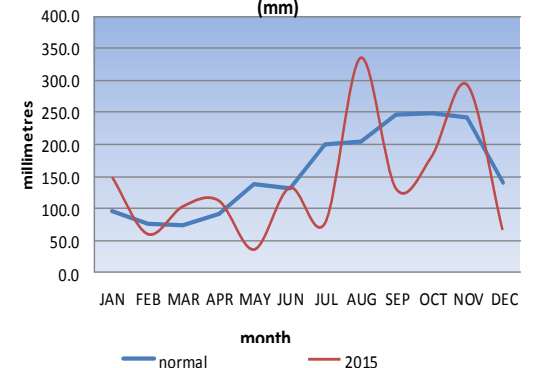
## SUMMARY OF 2015

DOUGLAS-CHARLES AIRPORT	CANEFIELD AIRPORT
<b>Rainfall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1677.1mm (below normal )</li> <li>◆ Wettest month (August 334.8)</li> <li>◆ Driest month (May 36.1mm)</li> <li>◆ Wettest day (August 26th 150.9mm)</li> </ul> <b>Temperature</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 27.8°C (above normal )</li> <li>◆ Hottest month (October 29.4°C)</li> <li>◆ Coolest month (January 26.3°C)</li> <li>◆ Highest temperature (October 1st 33.9°C )</li> <li>◆ Lowest temperature (March 17th 18.9°C)</li> </ul>	<b>Rainfall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1506.4mm (below normal )</li> <li>◆ Wettest month (August 440.8)</li> <li>◆ Driest month (April 24.1mm)</li> <li>◆ Wettest day (August 26th 238.7mm)</li> </ul> <b>Temperature</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 28.3°C Above normal</li> <li>◆ Hottest month (June 29.5°C)</li> <li>◆ Coolest month (January 26.5°C)</li> <li>◆ Highest temperature (October 3rd &amp; 4th 35.5°C )</li> <li>◆ Lowest temperature (March 17th 20.2°C)</li> </ul>

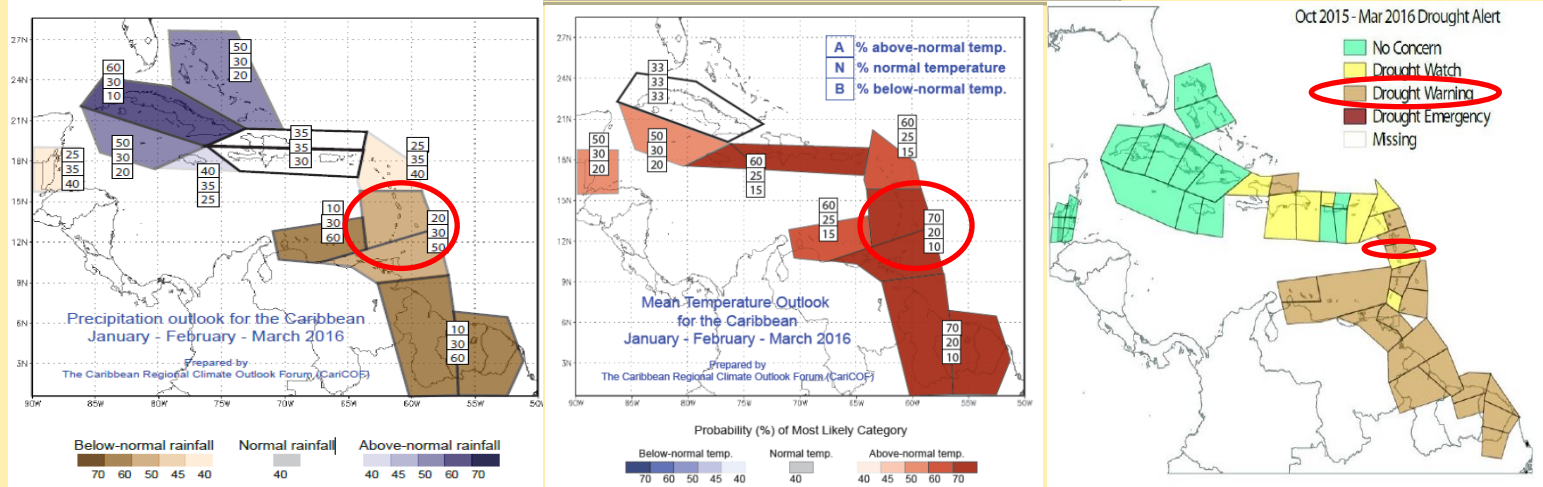
Canefield Airport average monthly rainfall totals (mm)



Douglas-Charles Airport average monthly rainfall totals (mm)



REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS



Below to normal rainfall totals (80% confident) and wet days (high confidence) are expected to continue from January to March 2016. Air temperature is also expected to continue to be above to normal (90% confident).

Thanks to the return of more seasonable rainfall in parts of the region during October and November, some Antilles islands are currently no longer facing severe shorter-term drought.

**Shorter-term (up to March 2016):** It is expected that a shorter-term drought situation may arise.

**Longer-term (beyond March 2016):** Very strong El Niño seems to have peaked in strength. El Niño often results in a drier early part of the year in the Lesser Antilles. This may lead to drought concerns towards the end of the Caribbean dry season. After El Niño peaks, it tends to dissipate towards the middle and possibly be replaced by a La Niña by the end of the year. This evolution could finally bring drought relief to the region.

FARMING COMMUNITY

Farm practices that require moisture such as transplanting of vegetables and weeding were delayed during the month due to limited rainfall amounts during the first half of December.

Irish potato farmers in the south, north and north east began land preparation amidst the dry weather conditions that were being experienced in the beginning of the month. Elsewhere, farmers choose to wait until the end of the holiday season.

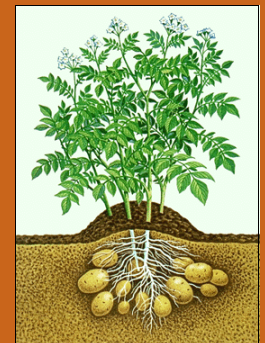
Tomato production was predominantly low for the last three months. However, farmers began establishing new tomato fields. High winds experienced in the last week of December resulted in severe damages and loss of vegetable crops.

Reports on pests and diseases for the month indicated that the Scale insects, Anthracnose, Thrips and Avocado lace bug were prevalent on some crops.

Livestock farmers need to ensure that an adequate supply of fresh quality water is stored for the upcoming dry period

The white potato crop program has commenced in December. Potatoes are very sensitive to soil moisture. Even soil moisture levels throughout the root zone should be maintained.

One inch of water per week to as much as 2 inches may be required on sandy soils with low organic matter. Mound the soil to a height of 3 to 6 inches and approximately 12 to 15 inches from the base of the plant. Use care to prevent damage to the plant roots, which may extend 8 to 12 inches from the base of the plant. Mounding maintains suitable soil cover for tubers as they expand. Tubers that break the soil surface may have green areas that contain bitter tasting glycoalkaloids and should not be eaten.



Long periods of excess moisture, particularly near maturity, may lead to decreased yields and poor quality tubers.

LQ: 2nd NM: 10th FQ: 16th FM: 24th

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-bulletins/agriculture/>

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 [aictudaa@gmail.com](mailto:aictudaa@gmail.com). Tele: 767 445 7878, / 767 449 1990 / Website: [www.weather.gov.dm](http://www.weather.gov.dm) /Hotline: 447 5555