

Vol. 1 Issue 2

May 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The inaugural meeting of a tripartite committee (Meteorological Officers, Extension Officers and Farmers) is expected to be held this month. The project coordinator of CAMI is expected to attend. An online discussion on issues related to weather and climate influences on agriculture in the Caribbean can be accessed via <http://mail2.cimh.edu.bb/camionlineforum/>. The Met. Service will conduct educational sessions with some community disaster groups this month. Feedback is welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin.

OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR MAY 2012

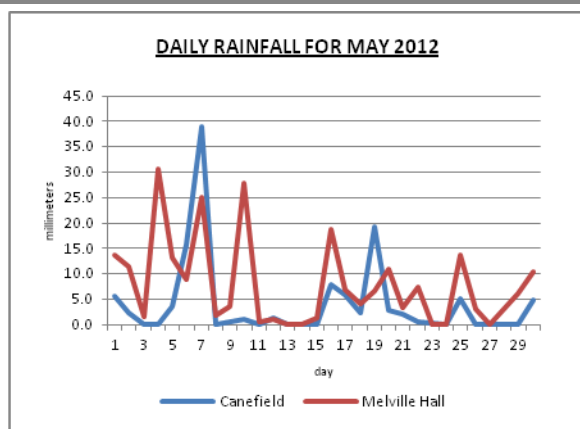


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall

The month of May is considered a transition month as the 'dry' season ends and the 'wet' season which coincides with the hurricane season begins. May could therefore be an extension of the 'dry' season or early start of the 'wet' season.

Rainfall on the south-west coast of Dominica was slightly above normal while rainfall on the north-east coast was near normal. In spite of this plants in the south-west would have encountered some water stress during the 2nd and 4th weeks where there were 7 and 5 consecutive days with no rainfall.

There were 16 rainfall days (>1.0mm) at Canefield and 25 at Melville Hall for the month. Unstable weather conditions contributed to the maximum daily rainfall amounts at both stations. 30.6mm/ 1.20in recorded at Melville Hall on the 4th and 39.0mm/ 1.54in recorded at Canefield on the 7th.

Parameter	Canefield Airport	Melville-Hall Airport
Rainfall Total	123.4mm	240.5mm
Normal	92.0mm	244.5mm
No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm)	16	25
Average Temperature	27.9°C	27.6°C
Normal	28.7°C	28.0°C
Maximum Temperature	32.4°C (30 th)	31.8°C (29 th)
Minimum Temperature	22.7°C (1 st)	22.6°C (6 th)
Relative Humidity	68%	76%
Maximum wind gust	46km/h	31km/h

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JUNE

June 1st marked the official start of the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season. The season has had an early start with the formation of two Tropical storms; Alberto and Beryl.

Canefield Airport:

Normally, in the month of June about 159.5mm/ 6.23in of rainfall is recorded and about 16 rainfall days. Based on our records the highest rainfall total ever recorded for the month of June was 381.3mm/ 15.01in in 2006 and the lowest total was 54.6mm/ 2.15in 1985. Average daily temperature is 29.1°C while the average maximum is 33.2°C and the average minimum is 22.8°C.

Melville-Hall Airport:

Normally, in the month of June about 191.0mm/ 7.52in of rainfall is recorded and about 18 rainfall days. Based on our 43 year old record, the highest rainfall total ever recorded for the month of June was 439.7mm/ 17.31in in 1979 and the lowest total was 43.1mm/ 1.70in in 1989. Average daily temperature is 28.5°C while the average maximum is 31.6°C and the average minimum is 22.5°C.

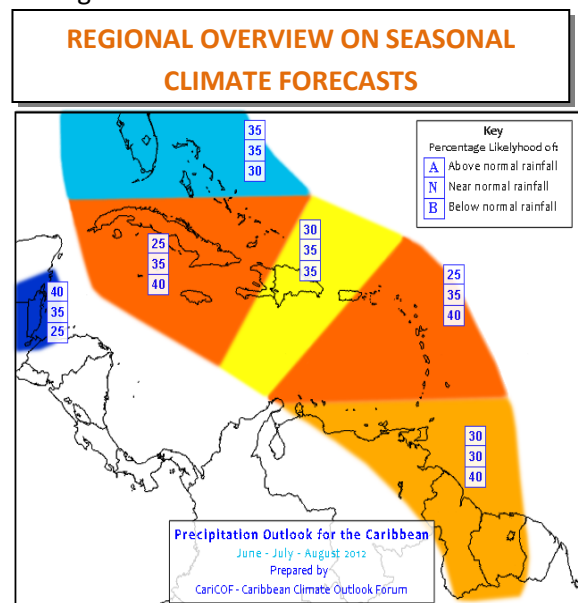


Figure 2: Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean; June-July-August 2012

- Models are indicating that during the period June-July-August, rainfall over Dominica is likely to be below normal with a more pronounced 'mid-summer' drought.
- There is a 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 35% chance of being near normal and a 40% of being below normal.
- Air temperature at 2m is predicted be near normal.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

With models suggesting a chance of below normal rainfall for this period, farmers should seek to harvest rainwater for irrigation and other farm uses during heavy rainfall events. There is a chance that pest and disease that thrive in moist conditions will be limited this season. It is likely that crops such as cucumbers are likely to be affected. Livestock farmers should store feed/grass since these resources can be lost in times of less rainfall.

In spite of the prediction for a below normal rainfall for the next three months, farmers are reminded that we are in the hurricane season and the possibility of heavy rainfall events are high. As a result farmers should pay special attention to daily weather forecasts.

MOON PHASES

Full moon	Jul 3
Last quarter	Jul 11
New moon	Jun 19 Jul 19
First quarter	Jun 27 Jul 26

The 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
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