



NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

MONTHLY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Produced: CLIMATE SECTION
Volume 3 Issue 3

August, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Meteorological Service of Belize, Climate Section is pleased to announce that it has revised its Monthly Agro-meteorological Bulletin for the dissemination of agro-meteorological products. We welcome feedback and questions from all, especially from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this and other products, as we strive to provide meteorological and climate-based products and services to the Belizean public through systematic and accurate monitoring and data collection, reliable data analyses and timely dissemination of user-friendly information on regular and emergency events and processes. ([Mediterranean fruit fly detected in Southern Belize](#)).

Weather & Climate Summary for Belize (May-June-July 2013).

Rainfall collected from agro-meteorological stations across the country for the month of May, showed that the start of the rainfall season was right on time. The rainfall usually commences in the third week of May in the south and moves north to rest of the country to start the rainy season (1st June).

June 2013 saw the passage of Tropical Depression #2. This along with upper level troughs, tropical wave and moisture surge from the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) kept much of June very moist and unstable, thus resulting in most stations receiving rainfall way above their normal. These high amounts of rainfalls totals caused several parts of the country to be affected by flooding and hence the Moderate to Severe Meteorological Drought that was affecting most of the country during the February-March-April period ended.

July 2013 saw the passage of five (5) tropical waves crossing the country. These tropical waves, along with unfavourable upper level conditions produced significant amounts of

rainfall that caused the extreme north, central coastal areas and some parts of the south to received rainfall ranging from normal to above normal. The rainfall collected over the inland, mountainous and extreme southern areas of the country was not significant and thus resulted in those areas receiving rainfall below their normal.

Assessment of the drought conditions for May-June-July showed that the entire country is not experiencing any sort of drought.

Note: Drought is simple the deficiency of rainfall.

Definitions of the drought terms:

Slight: rainfall (30th percentile to the 20th percentile)
Moderate: rainfall (20th percentile to the 10th percentile)
Serious: rainfall (10th percentile to the 5th percentile)
Severe: rainfall (less than the 5th percentile).

Weather outlook for the month of August

Below Normal rainfall is expected over the entire country.

Rainfall

The rainfall that is expected over some district stations for the month of August is as follows.

Northern Areas

Libertad (Corozal) (<117.1mm) or (<4.6inches)

Tower Hill (Orange walk (<160.1mm) or (6.3 inches)

Central and Inland Areas

Philip Goldson Airport (Belize) (<145.9mm) or (<5.7 inches)

Belmopan (Cayo) (<193.6 mm) or (<7.6 inches)

Central Farm (Cayo) (<126.2 mm) or (<4.9 inches)

Spanish Look out (Cayo) (<142.4 mm) or (<5.6 inches)

Southern Areas

Middlesex (Stann Creek) (<304.9 mm) or (<12.0 inches)

Melinda (Stann Creek Valley) (<218.7mm) or (<8.6 inches)

Savannah (South Stann Creek) (<311.3) or (<12.2 inches)

Big Falls South (Punta Gorda) (<409.2 mm) or (<19.28 inches)

Punta Gorda Agri. (Punta Gorda) (<517.7 mm) or (20.3inches)

Temperatures

Above normal temperature can be expected over Belize and her coastal waters for August 2013.

Probabilistically, there is a
40% chance of above normal temperature
35% chance of near normal temperature
25% chance of below normal temperature

Northern Areas

40% chance of above normal temperature (above 28.7°C)

Central and Inland Areas

40% chance of above normal temperature (above 28.0°C)

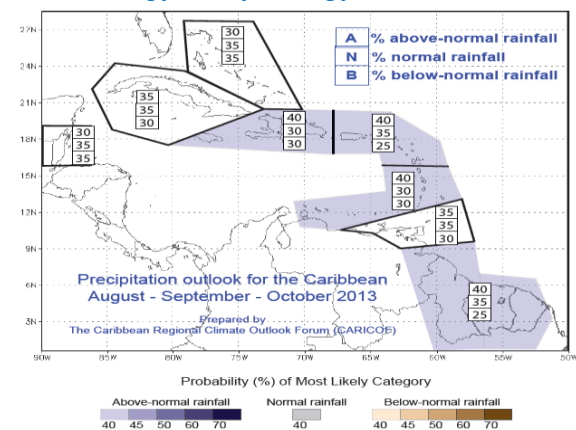
Southern Areas

40% chance of above normal temperature (above 27.8°C)

Seasonal precipitation forecast for August-September-October 2013(ASO)

There is equal chance for normal to below normal rainfall to prevail during the ASO period. With the expected normal to below conditions during the ASO season, also with ENSO Neutral conditions which usually indicate a normal rainfall pattern for Belize, drought conditions will likely to develop over Inland and Northern areas. Thus those areas can expect to see slight to moderate meteorological drought occurring in the ASO period.

Provided: By Caribbean Institute of Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH)



Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Ceratitis Capitata) or Locally Medfly



The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) has announced a quarantine of part of the Stann Creek District and the entire Toledo District – where, historically, the medfly infestations have occurred, presumably due to the smuggling of fruits and vegetables. The quarantine, which came into effect on Saturday July 13, 2013, will run for at least 6 weeks and possibly up to 12 weeks.

What the quarantine means is that the fruits and vegetables on a list of prohibited items are not allowed to be transported. If they are found upon searches conducted at designated checkpoints, BAHA officials will confiscate them.

Examples of fruits and vegetables allowed to be moved from the quarantine area are watermelon, pineapple, coconut, bananas, plantains and hot peppers. The idea behind the quarantine is to stop the movement of produce known to host the medfly.

Apart from the quarantine, BAHA has also put in place an eradication program, which entails the weekly spraying of the fruit with an insecticide approved for organic production, GF120 (a production of bacterial fermentation). BAHA also fights the medfly by stripping fruits off the infested trees.

There are no reports of medfly infestations in northern Belize, and one of the main reasons for the quarantine is to protect papaya crops in the north, which earned Belize US\$10 million in earnings (2012).

The medfly infestation was very likely caused by the illegal importation of produce such as apples, and pears and peaches, through neighboring Central American countries. BAHA called on the public to desist from the illegal importation of fresh fruits and vegetables from infested areas, such as Guatemala and Honduras. It added that violations will lead to immediate confiscation and destruction of produce regardless of quantity.

Agricultural Information was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

PLANTING

Commodity	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Carrots												
Lettuce												
Potato												
Broccoli												
Cauliflower												
Onion												
Celery												
Corn												
Bean												
Cabbage												
Tomato												
Sweetpepper												

	minor planting
	major planting

HARVESTING

Commodity	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Carrots												
Lettuce												
Potato												
Broccoli												
Cauliflower												
Onion												
Celery												
Corn												
Bean												
Cabbage												
Tomato												
Sweetpepper												

	minor harvesting
	major harvesting

Explain the chart

Minor harvesting indicates the start of the planting season for these seasonal crops (highlighted in yellow) - crops that are planted during the colder days of the year and are also short day plants. Major planting is when the highest number of acreage is planted. The planting will correlate with the harvesting period.