



MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Vol. 5 Issue 1

April - May 2016

OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR APRIL AND MAY

A series of trough systems and the Atlantic High Pressure System were the dominant features for April and May. This resulted in normal to slightly above normal wet conditions in April.. A further increase in wet conditions was observed in May.

Parameter	APRIL		MAY	
	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall Total	30.2mm (normal)	152.0mm (normal)	118.8mm	215.8mm
Normal	30.1 to 58.2 mm	92.2 to 162.9mm	44.8 to 116.9mm	139.1 to 262.9mm
Wettest day	12th (7.8mm)	19th (28.9mm)	28th (34.2mm)	11th (110.6mm)
Wet Days (≥ 1.0 mm)	10 (normal)	16 (normal)	12 (normal)	18 (normal)
Temperature	28.4°C	27.5°C	29.1°C	28.2°C
30 year average	27.9°C	27.2°C	28.8°C	28.0°C
Maximum Temperature	33.9°C (27th)	31.4°C (28th)	34.0°C (6th & 19th)	31.0°C (21st)
Minimum Temperature	21.9°C (3rd, 10th)	21.2°C (14th)	22.5°C(11th)	22.7°C (2nd & 12th)
Relative Humidity	68%	78%	64%	76%
Maximum wind gust	46km/h	44km/h	69km/h	44km/h
Average daily sunshine hours	-	7hrs 48mins	-	7hrs
Normal		8hrs 14mins		8hrs

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

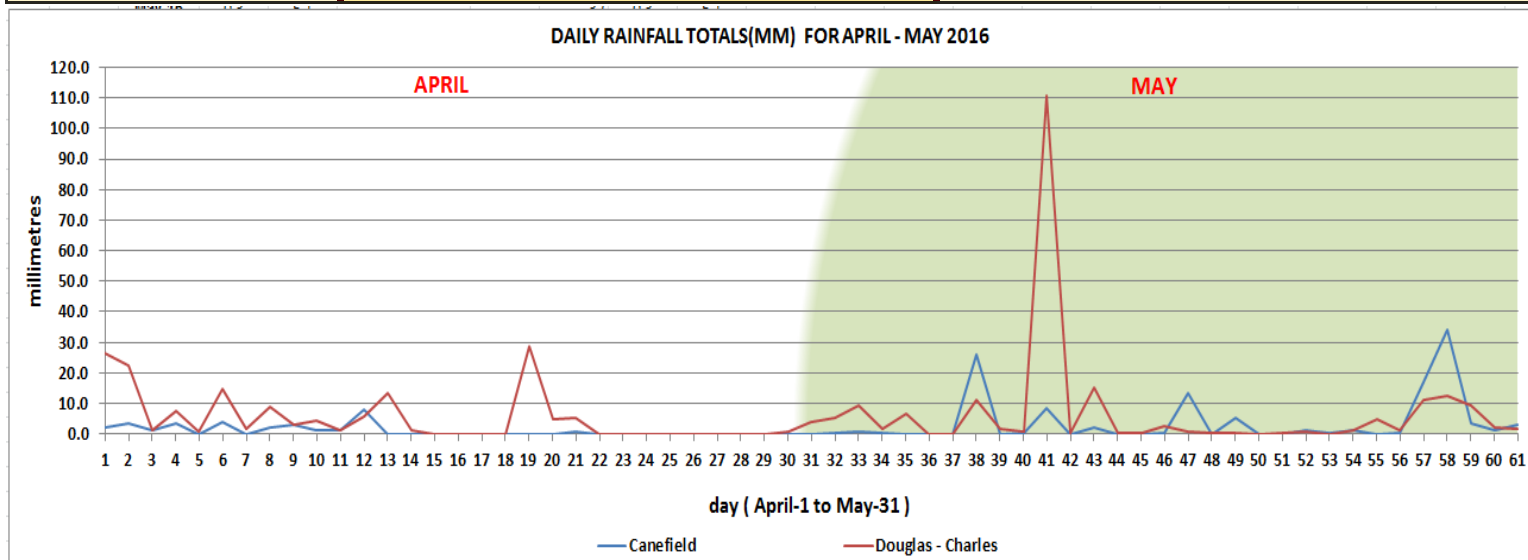


Figure 1 Daily rainfall at Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports

APRIL 2016

Wet and windy conditions were experienced during the first 2 weeks of April. Farmers testified that there was adequate moisture to conduct farm operations and to establish crops such as vegetables and root crops during that time. However, in the last two weeks in April, the weather became extremely dry with minimum levels of moisture and humidity in the atmosphere. These dry weather conditions were experienced both at low lying coastal zones and at higher elevations. Both day and night time temperatures were on the increase for the month. In addition the number of sunlight hours also increased as is customary during that time of year.

The majority of farmers who planted the white potato crop in January took advantage of the dry weather conditions being experienced by harvesting and curing their



white potatoes. Harvesting and post-harvest management training is currently being undertaken with white potato farmers. Three different varieties were planted this season; Spunta, Desiree and El Mundo.

Farmers without irrigation systems and who established their short term crops in February and March experienced some challenges in crop management techniques such as fertilizing and pest management. Root crop farmers such as yam, ginger and tannia began establishing their plots during the month. Plantains, bananas, dasheen, yams and ginger, are some of the main crops harvested within the period. Vegetable production is on a slight increase whereas fruit and tree crop production was relatively low.

There was an increase in Banana, and Plantain production. The tissue culture banana plants that were planted in July - August 2015, nine months later are being harvested.

A decline in the infestation level of the dreaded Black Sigatoka Disease was observed as one of the spray cycles under the Black Sigatoka Disease management program came to an end in mid-April along with the dry weather conditions that was experienced. Another spray cycle was scheduled to begin in the first week of May. Banana and plantain farmers were asked to continue following the recommendation and guidelines for field sanitation measures.

MAY 2016

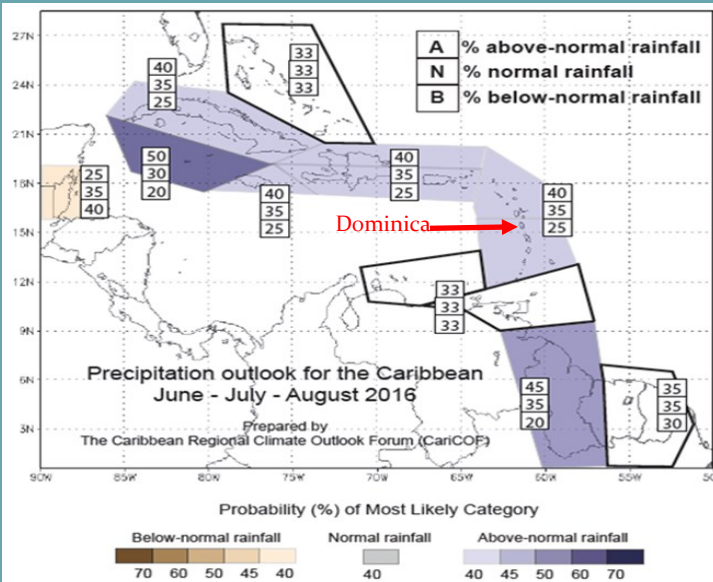
For the month of May the farming community experienced the transition of the dry/hot season into the rainy/wet season. For the earlier part of the month the weather was relatively dry and hot in parts of the island. The days became longer with about eight to nine day light hours. Most farmers were able to conduct their land preparation activities such as land clearing, weeding, pest and disease management and harvesting. The weather conditions for the month was favourable for both manual and chemical weeding practices. It was ideal for destroying the weeds and grasses before the rains began. Farmers who perform these activities will be able to take advantage of the rainy season which started in the last week of the month.

Harvesting of vegetables, root crops, bananas, plantains, passionfruit and pawpaw took place. Banana and plantain crop production is on the increase. Ginger farmers established their plots for the season. The majority of ginger acres were established during the month.

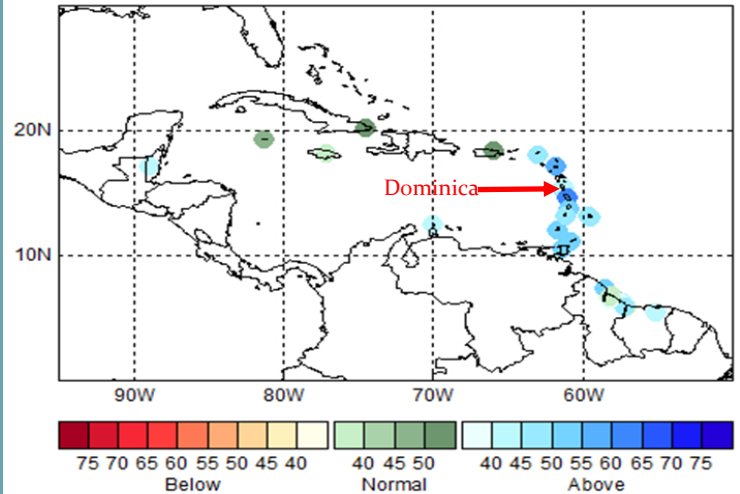


Livestock farmers did their livestock husbandry practices. Small ruminants and rabbits gave birth to their young for the season.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS FOR JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2016



JJA 2016 Extreme 3-day Wet Spells Frequency Shift



Rainfall outlook

Above to normal rainfall totals are forecasted for Dominica for June-July-August 2016.

Probability:

- 40% chance of above normal
- 35% chance normal
- 25% chance of below normal

Fewer wet days ($\geq 1.0\text{mm}$) and 7-day wet spells are forecasted. However, an increase in extreme 3-day wet spells are expected. This means that rainfall intensity will most likely be high which could increase the potential for flash floods.

Air temperatures are expected to be above to normal. Night and day-time temperatures are expected to be warmer.

Minimum/ night-time temperature

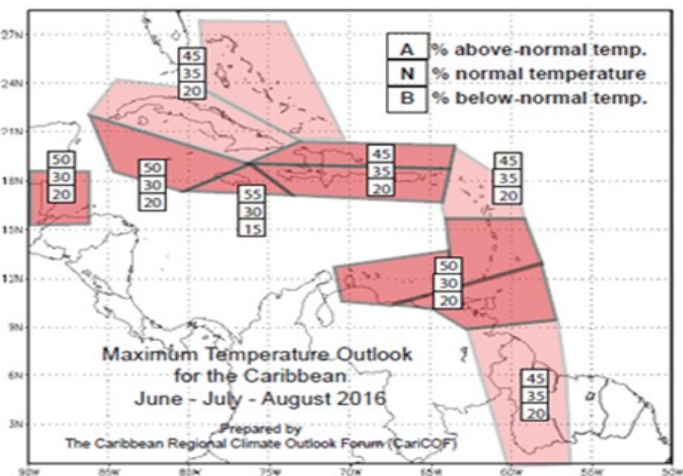
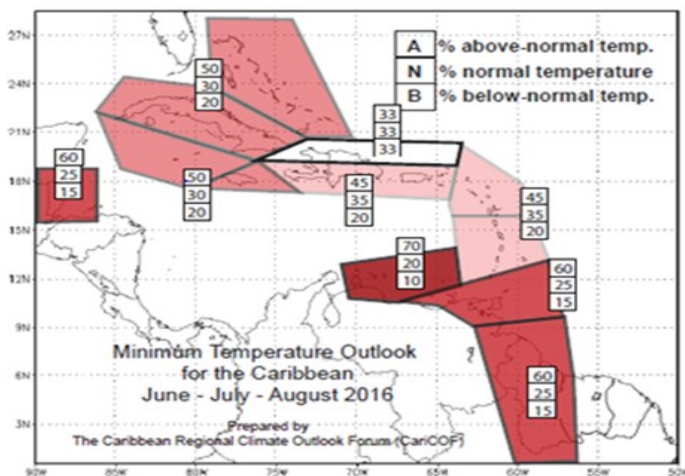
Probability

- 45% chance of above normal
- 35% chance normal
- 20% chance of below normal

Maximum/ day-time temperature

Probability

- 50% chance of above normal
- 30% chance normal
- 20% chance of below normal



2016 HURRICANE SEASON

The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially runs from June 1st - November 30th, annually. This year, 2016, weather scientists are predicting that the Atlantic Hurricane season will likely be near normal.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a 70 percent likelihood of:

- 10 to 16 Named Storms (winds of 39 mph or higher)
- 4 to 8 Hurricanes (winds of 74 mph higher)
- 1 to 4 Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher)

2016 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Alex	Hermine	Otto
Bonnie	Ian	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tobias
Fiona	Matthew	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JUNE

Parameter	Canefield Air-port	Douglas-Charles Airport
Rainfall normal	106.6—198.8mm	132.0—229.0mm
-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%

FARMERS OUTLOOK

- ⇒ As the upcoming rainy and hurricane season has started farmers need to put their hurricane and storm preparedness plans in action.
- Storm drains need to be ready and properly constructed to divert excess rainfall amounts.

- Livestock infrastructures need to be strengthened with hurricane ties.
 - Old galvanize and housing sidings replaced.
 - Water storage should be of paramount interest as well.
 - Slugs and snails population will be on the increase and pest and disease management is required to safeguard crop production.
- ⇒ The citrus plants are on sale again from the citrus certification facility. The plants are free from pests and diseases, and farmers need to ensure that their fields are properly lined and holes dug before purchasing the plants.
- ⇒ All farmers and farm workers must keep their radio tuned in to the local weather report and stay in touch with what's happening with the weather especially on weekends and holiday. Remember it only takes one.

MOON PHASES

 NM: 5th
  FQ: 12th
  FM: 20th
  LQ: 27th

Agromet bulletins from across the region can be accessed via http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-bulletins/agriculture/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 or aictudoa@gmail.com. Tele: 767 445 7878, 767 449 1990. Website: www.weather.gov.dm Hotline:

447 5555