



# MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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June 2016

## OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOR JUNE

June 1st marked the official start of the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Tropical waves traversing the region and the Atlantic High Pressure System were the dominant features for June. This resulted in normal to slightly above normal wet conditions across Dominica. Hazy and breezy conditions were also observed.

**Canefield Airport:** : Above normal rainfall total of 227.5mm was recorded at the Canefield Airport for June 2016. A tropical wave on the 6<sup>th</sup> produced the highest daily rainfall total of 57.4mm. There were 14 rainfall days and that is 2 days below the normal. There was a 5-day dry spell at the end of the month.

**Douglas-Charles:** : Normal rainfall total was recorded at the Douglas-Charles Airport for June 2016. A total of 226.0mm was recorded and that is 3.0mm below the 66<sup>th</sup> percentile. A tropical wave also produced the maximum daily rainfall total of 54.0mm on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 17 rainfall days and that is 1 day below normal. There was a 4-day dry spell during the 4<sup>th</sup> week.

## MONTHLY WEATHER PARAMETERS FOR JUNE

| Parameter                        | Canefield Airport | Douglas-Charles Airport |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Rainfall Total                   | 227.5mm           | 226.0mm                 |
| normal                           | 106.6 to 198.8mm  | 132.0 to 229.0mm        |
| Wet Days ( $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$ ) | 14(below normal)  | 17(normal)              |
| Temperature                      | 29.2°C            | 28.6°C                  |
| 30 year average                  | 29.0°C            | 28.5°C                  |
| Maximum Temperature              | 33.9°C (17th)     | 31.6°C (14th)           |
| Minimum Temperature              | 23.0°C (21st)     | 22.6°C (19th)           |
| Relative Humidity                | 66%               | 76%                     |
| Maximum wind gust                | 63km/h            | 56km/h                  |
| Average daily sunshine hours     | -                 | 7hrs 24mins             |

Table 1 Monthly weather parameters

## DAILY RAINFALL FOR JUNE 2016

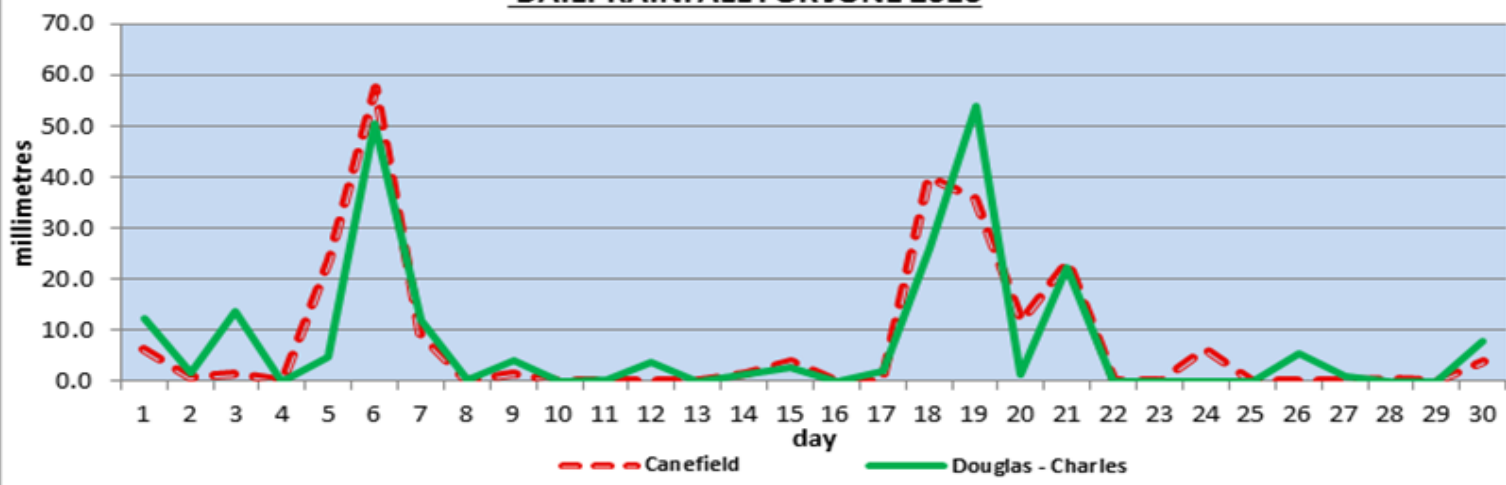


Figure 1 Daily Rainfall At Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airport

## FARMING COMMUNITY

Similar weather conditions were experienced in the farming communities both at high and low elevations. Windy conditions during the month impacted on crops, especially fruits that were nearing harvest time. Also, certain pests are expected to proliferate as windy conditions resulted in an increase in the spread of spores.

Farmers have continued in their land preparation for the establishment of crops, capitalizing on favourable weather conditions.

- ◆ Majority of Ginger farmers have established their plots.
- ◆ Root crop farmers are harvesting their crops and are also establishing new fields.
- ◆ Vegetable farmers have established and are harvesting the main vegetables however, farmers have not exploited their land space. Vegetable production has not shown any significant increase in production .
- ◆ Banana and plantain farmers are continuing their crop establishment, maintenance and harvesting. Banana farmers who established the Tissue Culture Plantlets nine to ten months ago have begun harvesting.
- ◆ Tree crop farmers' particularly citrus farmers have begun their crop establishments as the citrus plants are now available from the Citrus Certification Facility. Citrus production is low. Plants are currently in the fruiting and flowering stages.
- ◆ Other fruits such as mangoes, apricot, passionfruit, pawpaw, pumpkin and pineapple are being harvested.



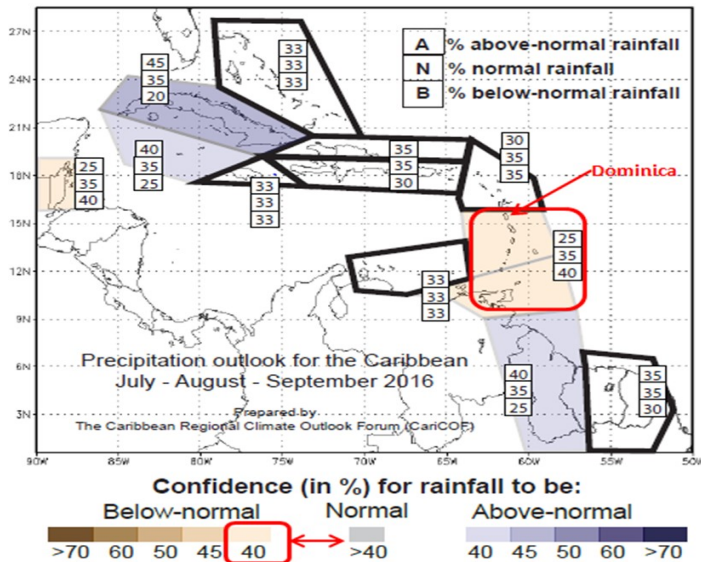
Photo credit: [www.agriculture.gov.dm](http://www.agriculture.gov.dm)

## CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR JULY

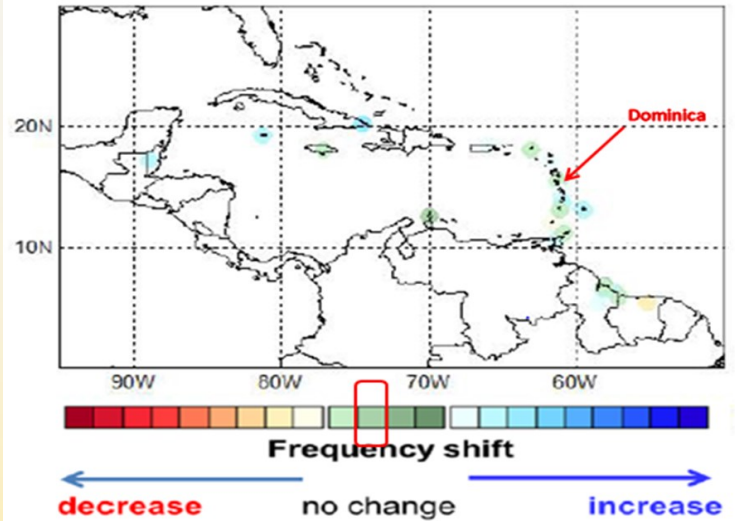
| Parameter                  | Canefield Airport | Douglas-Charles Airport |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Rainfall normal            | 218.8 to 315.1mm  | 199.1 to 273.2mm        |
| -highest total             | 393.3mm (2010)    | 406.6mm (2010)          |
| -lowest total              | 45.1mm (1994)     | 57.2mm (1975)           |
| Temperature                | 28.9C             | 28.6°C                  |
| -maximum                   | 34.5°C (1995)     | 33.2C (1995)            |
| -minimum                   | 20.5°C (1989)     | 20.7°C (1989 & 1993)    |
| Chance of 5 day dry spell  | 30%               | 20%                     |
| Chance of 10 day dry spell | 0%                | 3%                      |



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL FORECASTS FOR JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2016



## JAS 2016 frequency of extreme (1%) 3-day Wet Spells



### Rainfall outlook

Slightly below to normal rainfall totals are forecast for Dominica for July-August-September 2016.

Probability:

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

Fewer wet days ( $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$ ) and 7-day wet spells are forecast. However, no change is forecast for extreme 3-day wet spells. High rainfall intensity is anticipated and may result in potential flash floods.

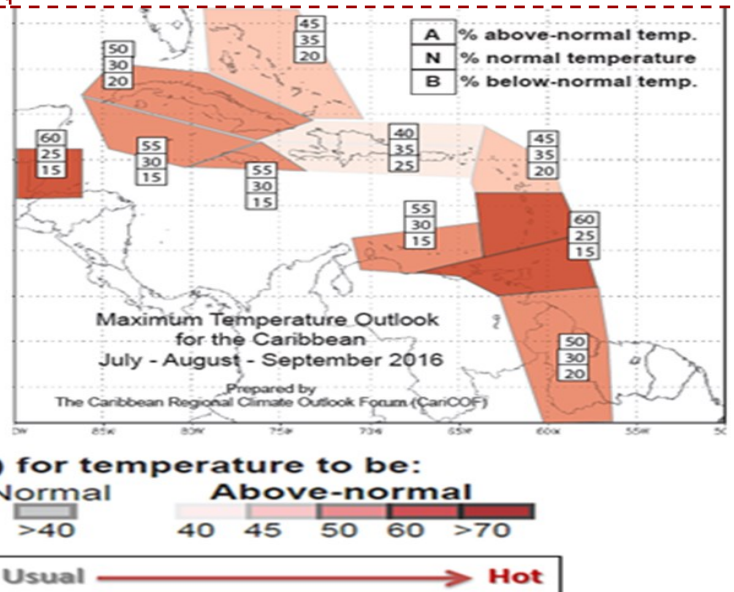
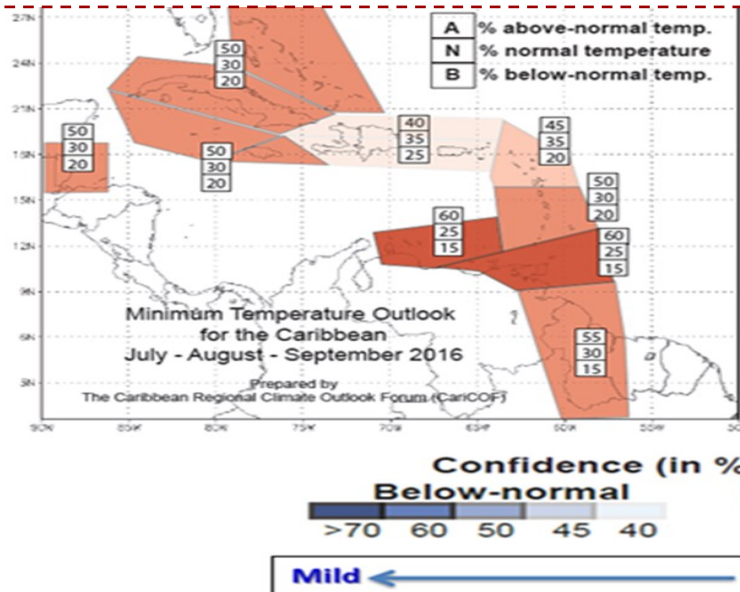
Air temperatures are expected to be above to normal. Night and day-time temperatures are expected to be warmer.

### Minimum/ Night-time Temperature Probability

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

### Maximum/ Day-time Temperature Probability

- 60% chance of above normal
- 25% chance normal
- 15% chance of below normal



## OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Farmers are advised to remain vigilant and keep tuned in to their daily weather report. We are in the hurricane season and preparedness is essential. There are many steps that the farmer has to take to prepare themselves, family and their farm to the adverse effects of torrential rain and strong winds. The Farmer can contact their local extension officer for hurricane disaster preparedness information.

- ♦ With rain come weeds. Weed management is critical in farm practices at this juncture.
  - ⇒ Weeds compete with crops for nutrients and moisture taking away large quantities of potassium and deprive the crop plants of this major nutrient.
  - ⇒ Weeds serve as a hosts for insect pests.
  - ⇒ They strive quickly mainly in new clearings and pruned fields and it is necessary to keep them under control till the crops cover the field.
  - ⇒ Certain cultural practices like mulching, raising cover crops, closer planting, higher pruning and manual weeding are important .The use of herbicides might be required to control weeds in new clearings.
- ♦ Continued vigilance of the Giant African Snail is critical as populations are likely to increase with the rains. Application of slug bait might be necessary to keep away slugs and snails in areas where their population is high. Strict sanitation of farms is key to controlling pest and diseases.
- ♦ Improve drainage on farms to allow proper water flow.
- ♦ For banana and plantain farmers de-leafing, spraying and nutrient management is critical in management of banana and plantain disease.

### Livestock husbandry practices

- ♦ Livestock species should be dewormed and vitamins given to strengthen animals immune system.
- ♦ Certain animals are sensitive to extreme weather conditions.
- ♦ In cooler areas and times of high rainfall there can be an expansion of livestock tick-borne diseases, and infestations of worms.
- ♦ Heavy rainfall patterns could also lead to expanding vector populations and outbreaks of disease.
- ♦ Higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, can translate into the increase spread of existing vector-borne diseases and circulation of new diseases.
- ♦ During High rainfall conditions farmers are advised to move animals that are near river beds to higher grounds.



- ♦ Improve crop density by using the recommended spacing for planting crops.

### MOON PHASES



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

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 The Senior Meteorological Officer at [metoffice@cwdom.dm](mailto:metoffice@cwdom.dm).

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