



Email: dmsclimate@dominica.gov.dm

Website: www.weather.gov.dm

Tel: (767) 6184490/ 445 7849/ 6184494

Seasonal Forecast: August-September-October (ASO) 2023

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What are the usual ASO conditions?

August-September-October		
RAINFALL CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL (30YEARS)		
	CANEFIELD AIRPORT	DOUGLAS-CHARLES AIRPORT
Normal Accumulation	507.1 to 733.5mm	708.6 to 964.8mm
Number of Wet Days	45 to 59 days	58 to 70 days
Number of 7-day Wet Spells	4 to 6	4 to 7
Number of 7-day Dry Spells	-	-
TEMPERATURE (15YRS AVERAGES)		
Average Maximum	32.0°C to 32.5°C	31.0°C to 31.4°C
Average Mean	27.9°C to 28.2°C	27.5°C to 27.8°C
Average Minimum	23.8°C to 24.1°C	24.1°C to 24.3°C

What is the forecast for this ASO season?

Rainfall

- Rainfall total is likely to be as usual for this season;
- No significant increase or decrease in the number of wet days is expected;
- There may be fewer wet spells but when they do occur, they are likely to result in flash floods and other associated hazards;
- There is no concern for drought by the end of October, but some areas may be in long term rainfall deficits by end of November.

Temperature

- Temperatures have been increasing since April and are expected to peak in August/September;
- Daytime and night-time temperatures are likely to be higher than usual;
- Temperatures are forecast to be high enough to be uncomfortable to many;
- This may manifest in recurring heatwaves and further increase in heat stress, that may rival hot years such as 2010, 2016 and 2020.

What factors are influencing this forecast?

1. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Recent observations: Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern Pacific have risen to weak El Niño conditions by the end of May.

Model forecast and guidance: The forecast models indicate possible further warming of the eastern Pacific to moderate El Niño conditions in ASO (95% confidence).

Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures: El Niño more often than not is marked by a warmer heat season, a drier summer season, and reduced tropical cyclone activity, especially from September to November.

2. Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) and the Caribbean Sea

Recent observations: SSTs have hovered around 1°C to 2°C above average in much of the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) in June and early July, even reaching record-high values across vast ocean areas.

Expected conditions: Models are confidently forecasting increasingly warm SST anomalies of 0.5°C to 2°C (or more) above average across the Caribbean Sea and the TNA.

Expected impacts: Warm SSTs in and around the Caribbean tend to contribute to higher air temperatures with above-average humidity and an increased frequency of heatwaves, but also higher Atlantic Hurricane Season activity, seasonal rainfall totals and an increased frequency of extreme rainfall during the wet season.