

CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



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A joint bulletin of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

KEY MESSAGES

Recurrent excessive humid heat, potentially culminating in heatwaves from Dominica southwards where the Caribbean Heat Season peaks in September and October is very likely.

Rainfall intensity and shower frequency should peak, resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.

Increasing Atlantic Hurricane Season activity into September, progressively slowing down from October onwards.

The Guianas are in their long dry season through mid- to late-November, steadily increasing wildfire potential but decreasing flood potential there

JULY IN REVIEW

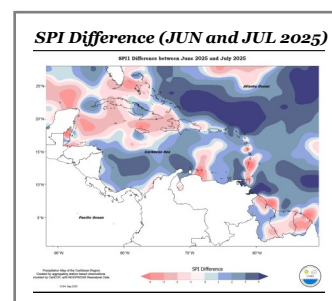
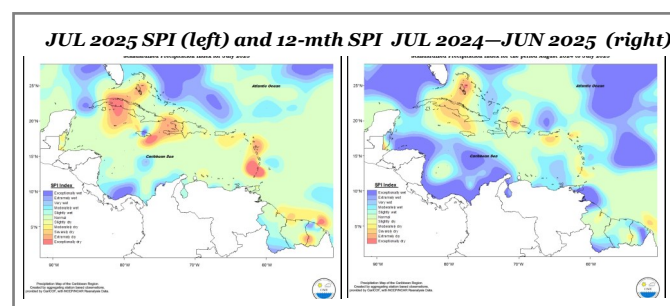
Apart from Tobago and Barbados that were mostly normal to slightly wet, conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal during the month of July. Trinidad and St Thomas were normal to slightly dry; Grenada moderate to exceptionally dry; St Vincent exceptionally dry; Saint Lucia and Martinique severely dry to normal; Dominica moderate to extremely dry; Guadeloupe and Antigua severe to extremely dry; St. Kitts normal; St Maarten moderate to slightly dry and Anguilla moderately dry to normal. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from extremely wet to exceptionally dry. Curacao was mostly slight to moderately dry.

Puerto Rico was predominantly normal ranging to moderately dry in the southeast. The Dominican Republic ranged from normal in central areas to severely dry in the west and slightly dry in the east. Jamaica ranged from exceptionally wet in central areas to exceptionally dry in the east. Grand Cayman was severe to extremely dry. Cuba was exceptionally dry in west central areas ranging to extremely wet in the west and to extremely dry in the extreme east. Northern Bahamas ranged from extremely dry to moderately wet and Belize was moderately dry to normal.

ABOUT CarisAM

The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CarisAM) is an online platform that hosts forums, provided online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists, and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises, and more. Visit us at: www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb

During the 12-month period (July 2024 to June 2025), a mixture of conditions prevailed across much of the region. Notably, northern Belize was exceptionally wet and most of Cuba and northern Bahamas experienced normal to severely dry conditions.



The month of June was distinctively drier than May across most of the eastern territories, while wetter across western territories as well as the Guianas.

Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/>

AGRI-NEWS

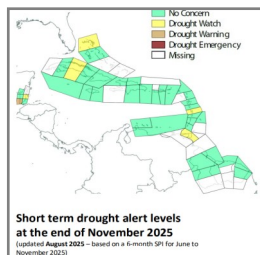
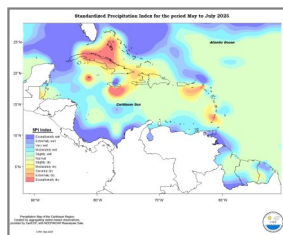
Jamaica: Farmers in Manchester will now have access to more water, especially during periods of drought, following the commissioning of a 130,000 gallon tank. Read more <https://jis.gov.jm/130000-gallon-water-tank-commissioned-to-boost-irrigation-in-manchester/>

Cuba: Drought, Breakdowns and Blackouts Leave 2.9 Million Cubans Without Water in August. Read more <https://translatingcuba.com/drought-breakdowns-and-blackouts-leave-2-9-million-cubans-without-water-in-august/>

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

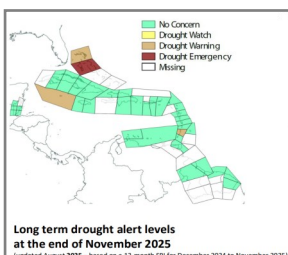
DROUGHT

Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in the Northwestern Bahamas, southwest Belize, Grand Cayman, central, northern and southeasternmost Cuba, St. Vincent. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in the Northwestern Bahamas, southwest Belize, Central Cuba, northern parts of Dominican Republic, St. Barts.

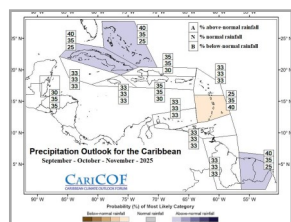


There is some concern for long-term drought, that can impact large reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, to present a challenge in farming by the end of November 2025 across northwestern Bahamas and possibly across northern Bahamas, Grand Cayman and St. Vincent. Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

There may be some concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of November 2025 across northwest Belize and possibly the Northern Bahamas, parts of Belize, parts of Central Cuba, Martinique and Trinidad.

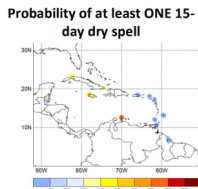
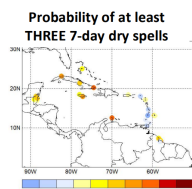


RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2025)



Rainfall totals from September through November are likely to be the usual or higher in The Bahamas, Cuba and eastern parts of the Guianas, but the usual or less in Barbados and the Windward Islands.

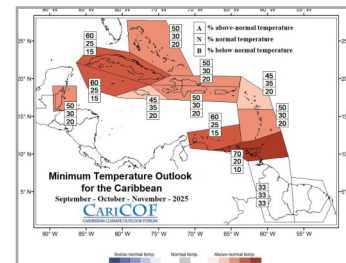
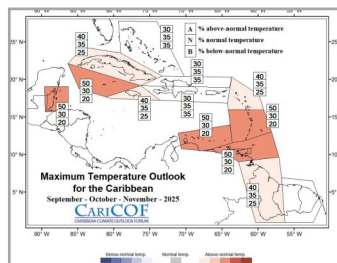
High to extremely high potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards across the Caribbean Islands and Belize; moderate potential in the Guianas, increasing to high by late-November in northern areas. Surface wetness makes environmental conditions more conducive to moisture-related pests in the islands and Belize. Growing wildfire potential in the Guianas along their dry season, followed by a trend towards heavier showers by late- November, significantly increasing flood potential at that time.



Moderate to high potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across the ABC Islands, Jamaica, Belize and Cuba during September to November.

Moderate to high potential of at least one 15-day dry spell during September to November.

Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures will likely be the usual or higher with spells of hazardous, humid heat expected through October in the ABC Islands, Barbados, the Windward Islands, and through November in the Guianas. However, the intensity of the 2025 Heat Season is not forecast to match that of 2023 and 2024.



Visit <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/> to access the latest climate outlooks.

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- to long-term) (Northwest Bahamas, Southwest Belize, Grand Cayman, Central Cuba, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent & St. Barts)

- ◆ Monitor and manage water use with drip or micro-irrigation systems according to crop needs and weather forecasts..
- ◆ Choose drought-tolerant crop varieties and apply mulch to conserve soil moisture.
- ◆ Provide sufficient water and shade for livestock and schedule feeding during cooler hours.

Normal to above-normal temperatures and humid heat spells (ABC Islands, Barbados, Windward Islands, and Guianas)

- ◆ Avoid farming activities during peak heat periods and ensure adequate hydration for workers and livestock.
- ◆ Apply mulch to stabilize soil temperature and use biostimulants to reduce heat stress in plants.
- ◆ Select heat-tolerant crop varieties, employ shade nets, and adopt intercropping systems to create cooler microclimates.
- ◆ Reduce livestock stocking density and provide shade to minimize heat-related stress.

Wet spells and flooding (ABC Islands, Jamaica, Belize, Cuba, and Caribbean/Guianas)

- ◆ Improve farm drainage through raised beds and contour planting on slopes.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizing prior to heavy rains and monitor crops for disease to ensure timely interventions.
- ◆ Track weather forecasts to prevent over-irrigation during.
- ◆ Move livestock to higher ground in flood-prone areas and provide protective structures where needed

Maintain records of inputs to aid post-disaster recovery

Please also keep updated and take into consideration your local weather and climate advisories.

Disclaimer

The information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the CARDI, and the CIMH make no warranties, either expressed or implied concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of said information. This bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 6 months in advance. It is recommended that stakeholders should use this information in combination with nearer term weather forecasts to guide operational decision making. The bulletin may be freely used by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be modified in content and then presented as original material.

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