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).

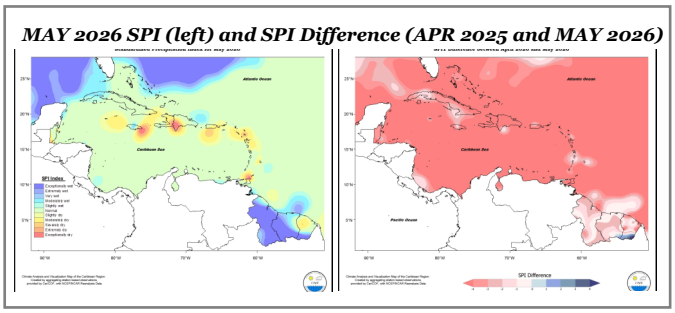
KEY MESSAGES

- ◊ **Increasingly intense humid heat is expected into the peak of the Heat Season in September, culminating in recurrent heatwaves, especially in the far north.**
- ◊ **Intrusions of dusty Saharan air will likely be frequent, inhibiting tropical cyclone activity (with irregular bouts of Atlantic Hurricane Season activity through August, likely followed by somewhat muted peak season activity in September), but exacerbating humid heat and deteriorating air quality.**
- ◊ **Slower than usual alleviation of lingering drought into September in the Lesser Antilles.**
- ◊ **Slower than usual increase in rainfall frequency than in most years.**
- ◊ **The expected occurrence of excessive rainfall events leads to high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.**

MAY IN REVIEW

Conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were predominantly normal to below normal during the month of May. Trinidad was normal to exceptionally dry; Tobago extremely dry to normal; Grenada and St Vincent normal; Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe and St Maarten normal to moderately dry; Saint Lucia slightly wet to normal; Antigua severely dry; St Kitts moderately dry; Dominica, St Croix and Anguilla normal to slightly dry and St Thomas slight to moderately dry. In the Guianas, conditions were mostly exceptionally wet ranging to severely dry in northwestern areas of French Guiana. Aruba was normal.

Puerto Rico was severely dry to normal south to north. The Dominican Republic was exceptionally dry to slightly wet southwest to east. Jamaica was very wet in central areas ranging to slightly dry in the west and to exceptionally dry in the east. Grand cayman was predominantly slight to moderately dry. Cuba was mostly normal ranging to moderately wet in the west and to moderately dry in the extreme east. Northern Bahamas was normal to extremely wet and Belize was severely dry in the south to mostly normal.

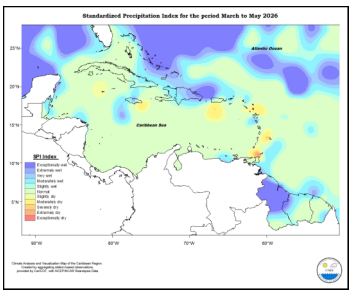


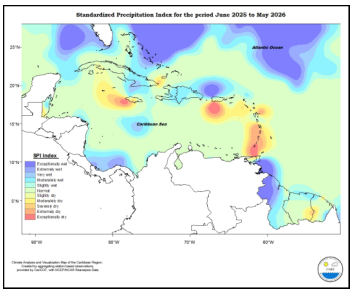
MAY 2026 SPI (left) and SPI Difference (APR 2025 and MAY 2026)

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

WATER STATUS

Severe (or worse) agricultural drought has developed in southwest Tobago and western Barbados.





Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in easternmost Cuba, Grenada, easternmost Guadeloupe, southwest Jamaica, Martinique, southwest Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and southeast Suriname.

AGRI-NEWS

Jamaica: Agricultural sector rebounds despite the devastation of Hurricane Melissa last October. Read more *https://jis.gov.jm/agricultural-sector-rebounds-2/*

Jamaica: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining has implemented a $149-million drought mitigation programme to shield farmers from the effects of prolonged drought conditions. Read more *https://jis.gov.jm/agriculture-ministry-rolls-out-149-million-drought-mitigation-programme-for-farmers/*

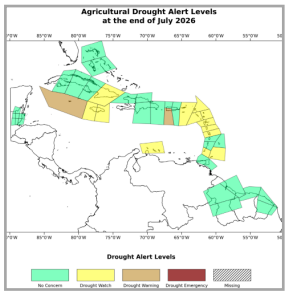
ABOUT CariSAM

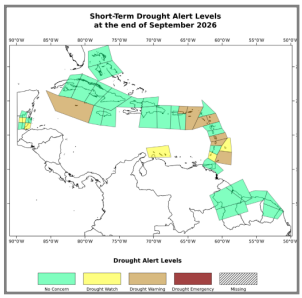
The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CariSAM) is an online platform that hosts forums, provided online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists, and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises,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

REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

DROUGHT

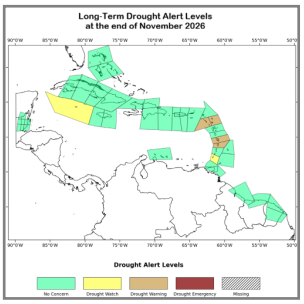
There is some concern for agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability by the end of July across Saint Lucia and possibly across the ABC Islands, far Eastern Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, the Leeward Islands, Martinique and Tobago.





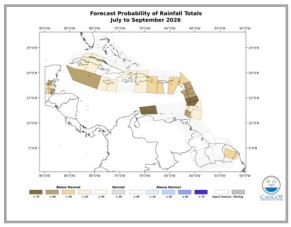
Some concern exists over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of September across Antigua, Grand Cayman, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Tobago and the US Virgin Islands and possibly across the ABC Islands, Barbados, western and southeast Belize and Grenada.

There is 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 2026 in Antigua, Martinique, St. Kitts and Saint Lucia and possibly across Grand Cayman and Grenada. Areas ending up in long-term drought by the end of November are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and groundwater in the ensuing dry season.



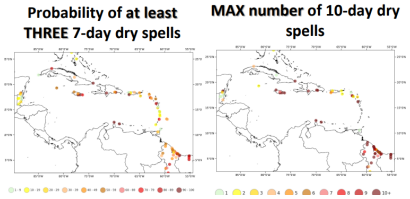
Interests in these territories should monitor their water resources.

RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (JULY — SEPTEMBER 2026)



Rainfall totals from June to August are likely to be the usual or less across much of the region.

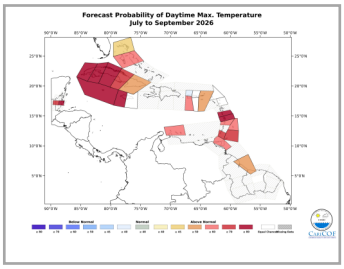
However, high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods and related impacts and compounding or cascading hazards due to excessive rains none-the-less, in most areas except the ABC Islands. Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will likely be slower than usual in Belize and the Antilles. A slower than usual increase in wet days into August dampens the increase in rainfall disruptions of outdoor activities, not only slowly builds up soil moisture and reduces wildfire potential, but also reduces the prevalence of moisture-related pests.

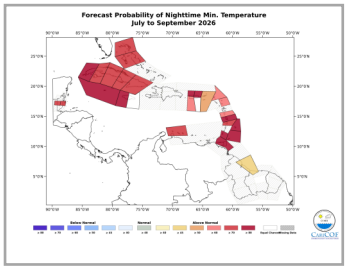


Favourable potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across most of the region from July to September.

At least eight 10-day dry spells may be observed across The ABC Islands, the Guianas, easternmost Cuba, and Hispaniola.

Day-time temperatures (maximum) will likely be at least as warm as usual, with recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat - culminating in heatwaves - causing heat stress, especially in persons in situations of vulnerability for whom adopting cooling strategies are paramount. The risk of extreme heat is highest in the northern Caribbean.





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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- and long-term) affecting Antigua, Grand Cayman, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Tobago and the US Virgin Islands

- Protect soil moisture by maintaining soil cover, using crop residues, cover crops, and mulches to reduce moisture loss.
- Improve water security through rainwater harvesting, water storage, efficient irrigation systems, and targeted watering based on crop needs.
- Manage irrigation wisely by prioritizing critical crop growth stages such as establishment, flowering, and fruiting.
- Strengthen livestock resilience by ensuring reliable access to water, shade, and emergency water supplies.
- Improve feed availability by introducing drought-tolerant forage species, developing feed reserves, and protecting pastures through rotational grazing.

Risk of heavy rainfall, flooding, and flash flood events

- Clear drainage systems, and avoid land clearing to reduce runoff, erosion, and flooding.
- Plant on raised beds or mounds where appropriate to improve root zone aeration.
- Time fertilizer applications with rainfall forecasts and use split applications to improve nutrient uptake and reduce runoff and leaching losses.
- Ensure livestock facilities have adequate drainage to reduce mud, standing water, and disease risks
- Relocate livestock to higher ground and provide secure shelters during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding.
- Monitor crops regularly for increased risks of fungal and bacterial diseases associated with high moisture conditions

Heat and temperature stress (July–September 2026)

- Reduce heat impacts by maintaining soil moisture through mulching, and use of shade or protective covers for heat-sensitive crops.
- Improve livestock heat management by providing shade, and limiting handling during peak heat periods.

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

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