

CariCOF Drought Outlook

By the end of November 2026

*Coordination: Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology
Dr. Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck - Climatologist
caricof@cimh.edu.bb*

Participating territories

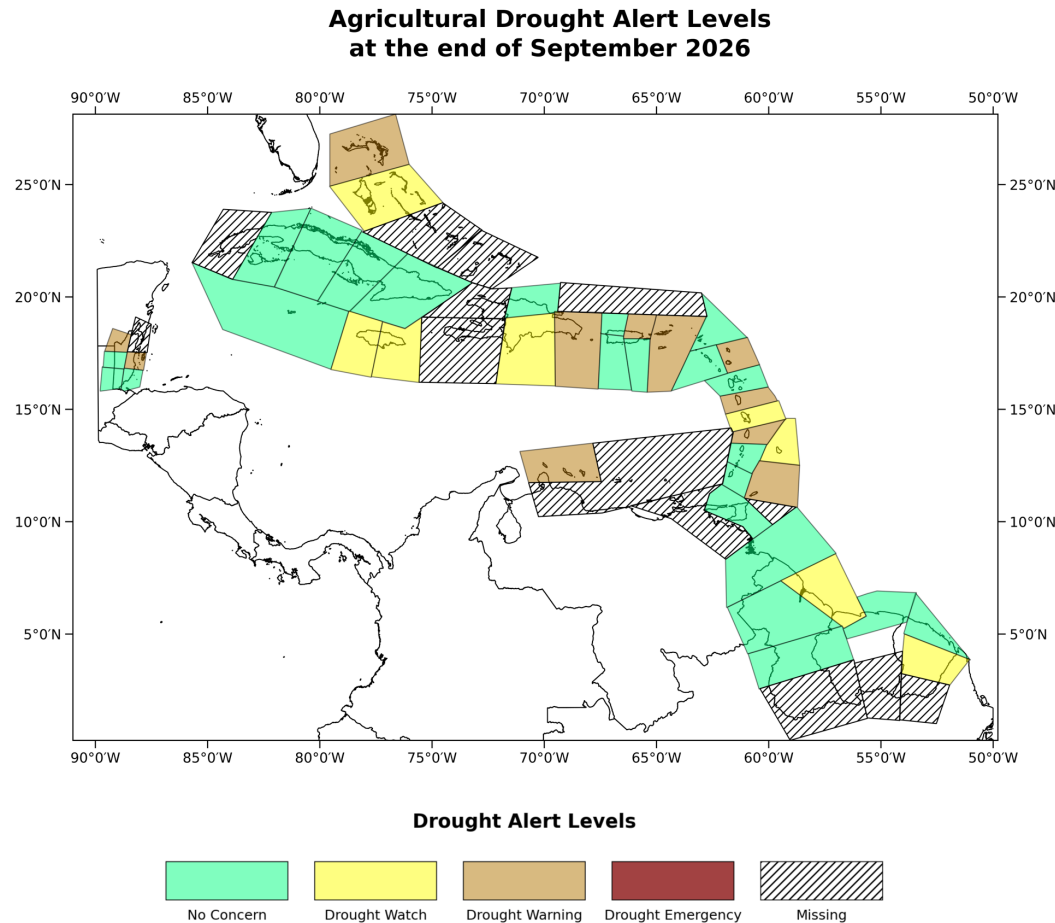
Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haïti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands



What is the predicted *agricultural drought* concern at the end of September 2026?

Current update (August 2026)

- During the Caribbean Wet Season, rainfall totals are usually higher. Nevertheless, whenever rainfall deficits lead to *severely dry* conditions (SPI ≤ -1.3 ; ref.: CDPMN), impacts to surface and soil moisture leading to negative impacts on rainfed crop agriculture.
- Drought warning** should be considered for the ABC Islands, Antigua, northwest & central coastal Belize, Northern Bahamas, Dominica, easternmost Dominican Republic, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI.
- Drought watch** should be considered for Barbados, Northwest Bahamas, southern Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique.



Agricultural drought alert levels at the end of September 2026

(updated August 2026 – based on a 3-month SPI for July to September 2026)

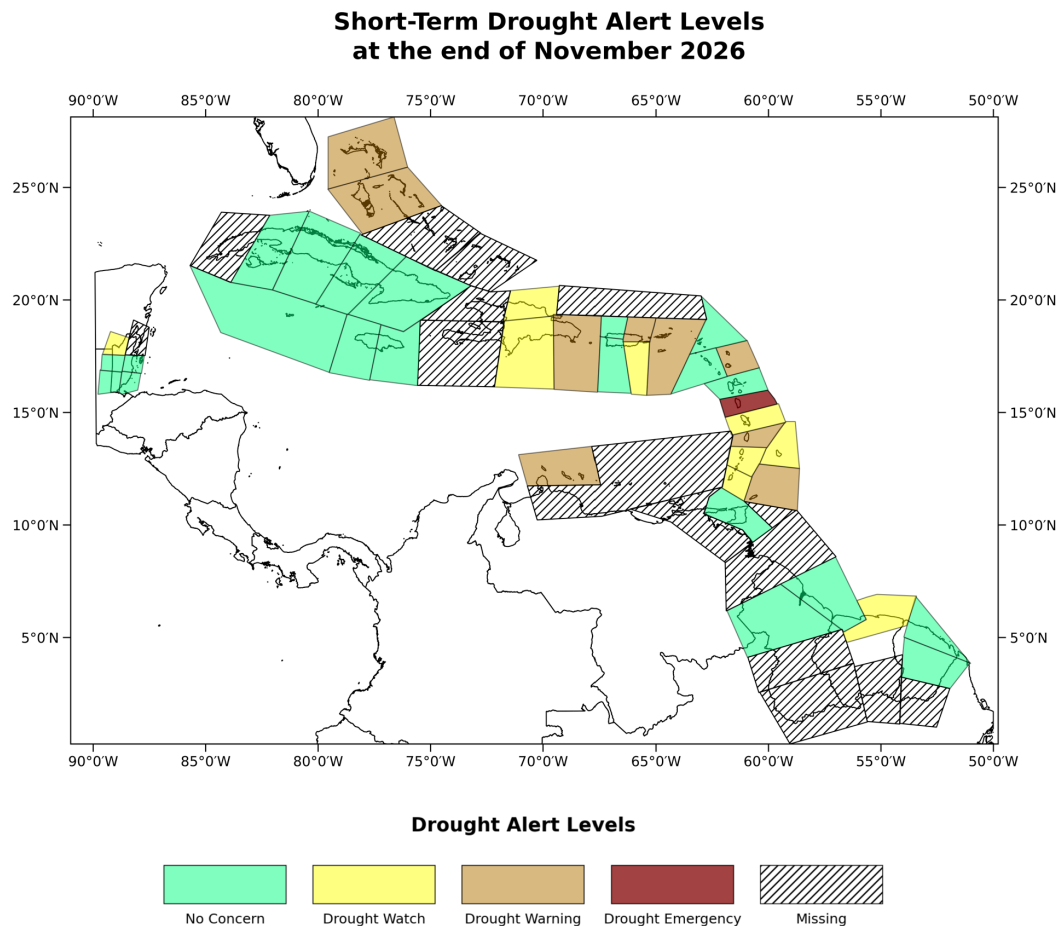
For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service. Caricof outlooks speak to recent and expected climate trends across the Caribbean in general.



What is the predicted short-term drought concern at the end of November 2026?

Current update (August 2026):

- During the Caribbean Wet Season, rainfall totals are usually higher. Nevertheless, whenever rainfall deficits lead to *severely dry* conditions ($SPI \leq -1.3$; ref.: CDPMN), impacts to soil moisture, stream and small river flow, as well as surface water reservoirs are expected, with implications for agriculture and hydrology.
- Drought emergency** should be considered for Dominica.
- Drought warning** should be considered for the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, easternmost Dominican Republic, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI.
- Drought watch** should be considered for Barbados, northern & southern Dominican Republic, SE Puerto Rico, coastal Suriname, elsewhere in the Windward Islands.



Short-term drought alert levels at the end of November 2026

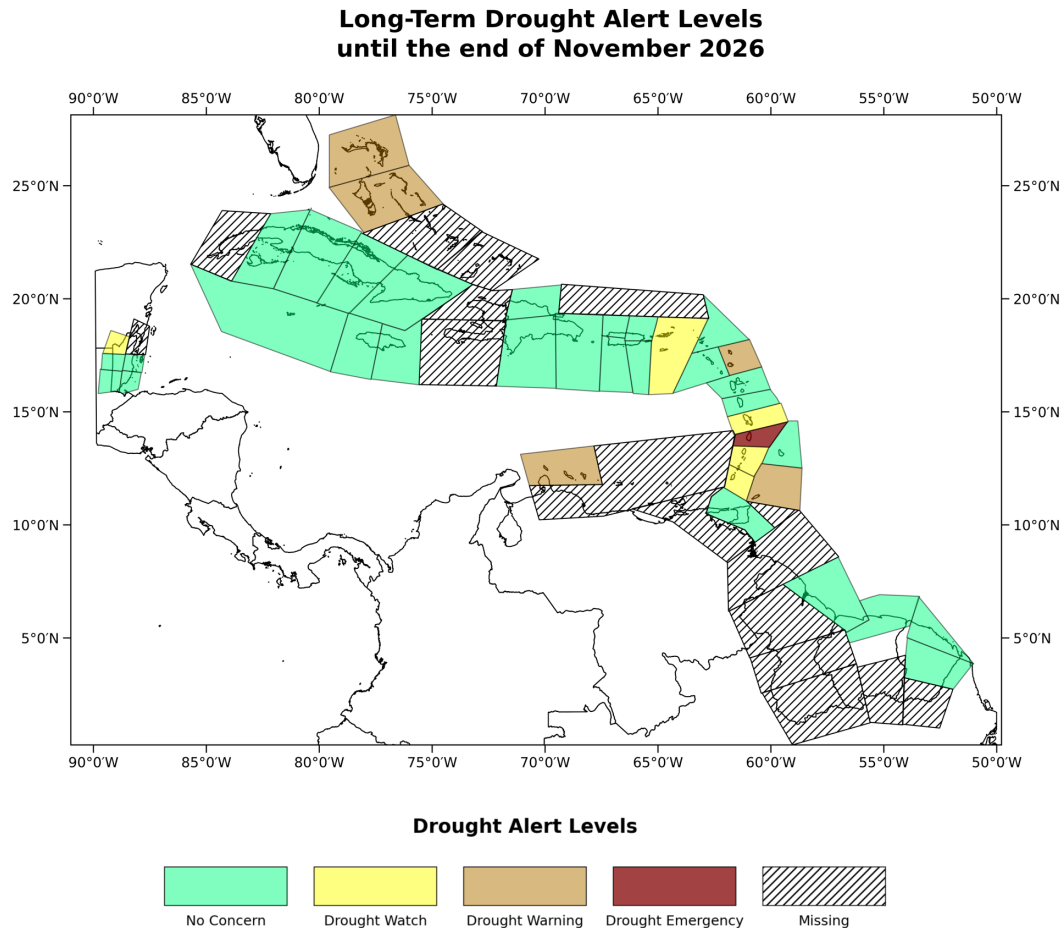
(updated **August 2026** – based on a 6-month SPI for June to November 2026)

For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service. CariCOF outlooks speak to recent and expected climate trends across the Caribbean in general.

What is the predicted long-term drought concern at the end of November 2026?

Current update (August 2026):

- During the Caribbean Wet Season, rainfall totals are usually higher. Nevertheless, whenever rainfall deficits lead to *severely dry* conditions ($SPI \leq -1.3$; ref.: CDPMN), impacts to large river flow, very large surface water reservoirs and aquifers are expected, with implications across most climate-sensitive sectors of society.
- A **drought emergency** should be considered for Saint Lucia.
- A **drought warning** should be considered for the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Tobago.
- A **drought watch** should be considered for Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, USVI.



Long-term drought alert levels at the end of November 2026

(updated August 2026 – based on a 12-month SPI for December 2025 to November 2026)

For climate information specific to your country, please consult with your national meteorological service. Caricof outlooks speak to recent and expected climate trends across the Caribbean in general.

Outlook – agricultural / short- / long-term drought concern?

- **Current drought situation** (up to the end of July 2026): (more information [here](#))
 - Severe (or worse) **agricultural drought** has developed in Northern & Northwest Bahamas, coastal central Belize, Grand Cayman, parts of Dominica, far western Dominican Republic, east & northernmost French Guiana, eastern Haiti, far western & southeast Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Vincent, far northeast Trinidad.
 - Severe (or worse) **short-term drought** has developed in Antigua, Northwest Bahamas, Grand Cayman, southeast Jamaica, Martinique, southwest Puerto Rico, St. Vincent, far northeast Trinidad.
 - Severe (or worse) **long-term drought** has developed in southern Grenada, easternmost Guadeloupe, southwest Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, southeast Suriname, southwest Tobago, far northern Trinidad.
- **Anticipated Agricultural drought situation** (at the end of September 2026):
 - Agricultural drought is *evolving* in the ABC Islands, Antigua, northwest & central coastal Belize, Northern Bahamas, Dominica, easternmost Dominican Republic, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI.
 - Agricultural drought *might possibly develop or continue* in Barbados, Northwest Bahamas, southern Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique.
- **Anticipated Short-term drought situation** (at the end of November 2026):
 - Short-term drought is *imminent* in Dominica and *evolving* in ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, easternmost Dominican Republic, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Tobago, USVI.
 - Short-term drought *might possibly develop or continue* in Barbados, northern & southern Dominican Republic, southeast Puerto Rico, elsewhere in the Windward Islands.
- **Anticipated Long-term drought situation** (at the end of November 2026):
 - Long-term drought is *imminent* in Saint Lucia and *evolving* in the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Tobago.
 - Long-term drought *might possibly develop or continue* in Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent, USVI.
 - 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.

* We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.*

ALERT LEVEL	MEANING	ACTION LEVEL
NO CONCERN	No drought concern	✓ monitor resources ✓ update and ratify management plans ✓ public awareness campaigns ✓ upgrade infrastructure
DROUGHT WATCH	Drought possible	✓ keep updated ✓ protect resources and conserve water ✓ implement management plans ✓ response training ✓ monitor and repair infrastructure
DROUGHT WARNING	Drought evolving	✓ protect resources ✓ conserve and recycle water ✓ implement management plans ✓ release public service announcements ✓ last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades ✓ report impacts
DROUGHT EMERGENCY	Drought of immediate concern	✓ release public service announcements ✓ implement management and response plans ✓ enforce water restrictions and recycling ✓ enforce resource protection ✓ repair infrastructure ✓ report impacts



**Regional climate data, information, tools,
experimental and operational products
are available at**

<https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb>

Coordination:
Contact:

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology
caricof@cimh.edu.bb

Author(s):

Dr. Cedric VAN MEERBEECK – *Climatologist*
(cmeerbeeck@cimh.edu.bb)

