

DOMINICA CLIMATIC NEWSLETTER

September-October-November 2026



Summary

Previous Season: Jun- Jul- Aug 2026 (JJA)

Forecast: Less rainfall than usual were expected. Warmer than usual conditions for the western communities, but more comfortable for eastern communities.

Observations: Rainfall totals were below normal and resulted in severely to extremely dry conditions. Nights were warmer than usual, while daytime highs were warmer than usual at Canefield and cooler than usual at Douglas-Charles.

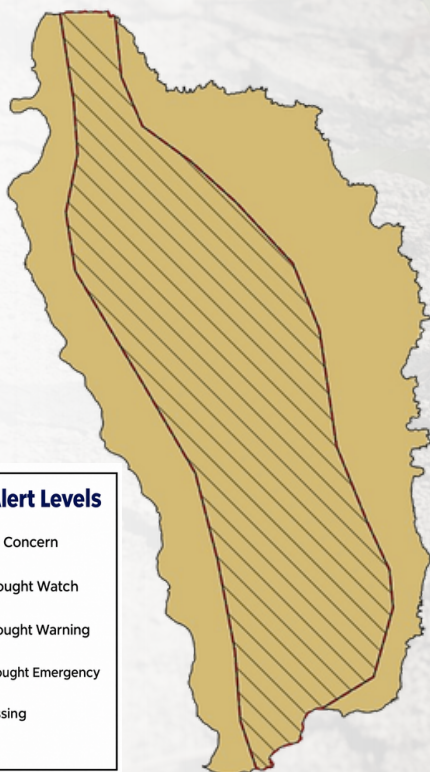
Current Season: Jun- Jul- Aug 2026 (JJA)

The trend of below-normal rainfall is expected to continue, with impactful drought conditions anticipated by the end of November. Flash flood potential remains high. Temperatures are likely to be at least as warm as usual.



**DROUGHT CONDITIONS ARE EVOLVING
AND ARE LIKELY TO BECOME
IMPACTFUL BY THE END OF NOVEMBER**

**Short-term (Meteorological) Drought Alert Level
at the end of November, 2026**



Drought Alert Levels

-  No Concern
-  Drought Watch
-  Drought Warning
-  Drought Emergency
-  Missing



WHAT IS A METEOROLOGICAL DROUGHT?

Meteorological drought occurs when the island receives less rainfall than normal for more than 3 months, resulting in drier than usual conditions.



OBSERVATION AND FORECAST

June - July -August 2026

- Below normal rainfall totals at Climatological Stations resulting in severely to extremely dry conditions
- This trend is forecast to continue to the end of 2026

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

-  River and stream flows may decline
-  Water supplies may decrease
-  Crops and livestock may come under stress
-  Bushfire risk may increase

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW



SAVE WATER NOW

Properly store water, avoid unnecessary use and fix leaking taps and pipes.



FARMERS

Monitor your crops and livestock water needs and plan ahead for reduced rainfall.



HOUSEHOLDS

Check water storage tanks and make sure they are clean and ready for use.



STAY INFORMED

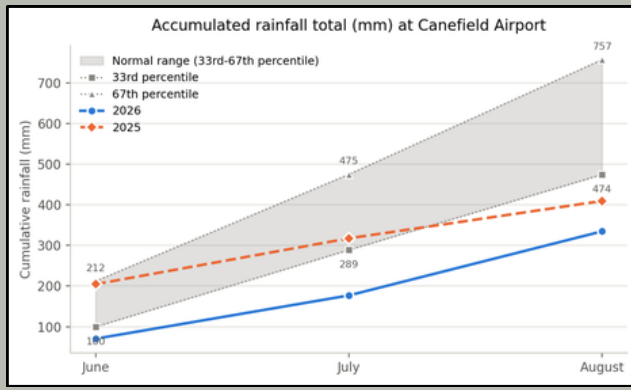
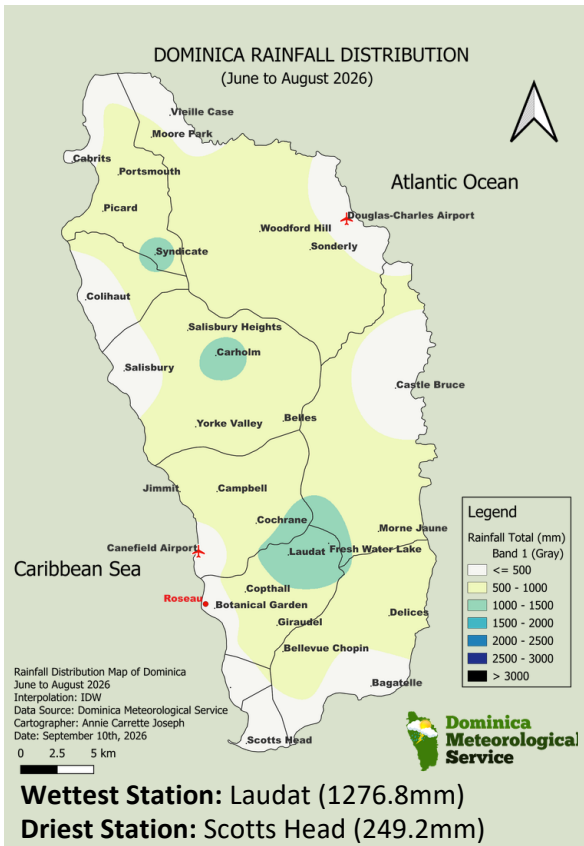
Keep updated with rainfall forecasts from the Dominica Meteorological Service.



**REMEMBER: A DROUGHT DOES NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.
PREPARING EARLY CAN REDUCE ITS IMPACTS.**

**WATCH****PLAN****CONSERVE****STAY
INFORMED**

RAINFALL OBSERVATION



Canefield Airport

Rainfall Total (JJA)

334.6mm/ 13.17in
(Below normal)

Total Wet Days

37

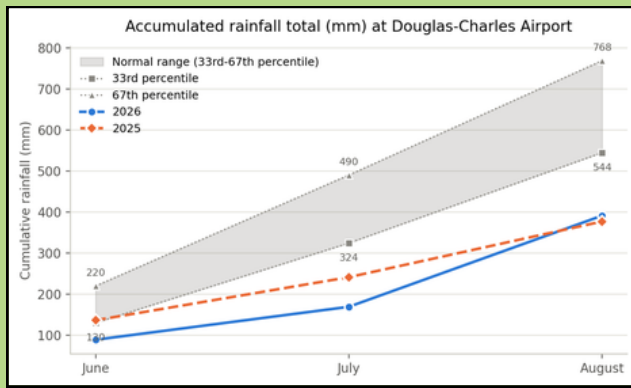
Significant Dry Spells

(7 days or more)

1

Longest Dry Spells

12 days (June)



Douglas-Charles Airport

Rainfall Total (JJA).

391.2mm/ 15.40in
(Below normal)

Total Wet Days

54

Significant Dry Spells

(7 days or more)

1

Longest Dry Spells

8 days (July)

TEMPERATURE OBSERVATION

The average seasonal temperature at Canefield Airport was slightly warmer than usual, while Douglas-Charles Airport was slightly cooler than usual.

Daytime Highs & Night-time Lows

- Daytime highs were cooler than usual at Douglas-Charles Airport and warmer than usual at Canefield Airport.
- Nighttime lows were warmer than usual at both Canefield and Douglas-Charles Airports.

Hot Days and Hot Spells

- Out of 92 days, 41 hot days were recorded at Canefield ($\geq 32.9^{\circ}\text{C}$) and 5 at Douglas-Charles ($\geq 31.5^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- Canefield recorded 10 extremely hot days ($\geq 34.1^{\circ}\text{C}$), while Douglas-Charles recorded none ($\geq 32.4^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- Eight hot spells (two or more consecutive hot days) were observed at Canefield. The longest lasted 11 days.
- At Douglas-Charles, one hot spell lasting 3 days was observed.
- Warmest day: 35.4°C at Canefield (Aug 4th) and 32.0°C at Douglas-Charles (July 18th)

Hot and Cool Nights

- There were 39 hot nights at Canefield ($\geq 25.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) and 34 at Douglas-Charles ($\geq 25.7^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- Five nights were extremely hot at Canefield ($\geq 26.7^{\circ}\text{C}$) and one at Douglas-Charles ($\geq 27.2^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Warmest night: 27.3°C at Canefield (July 11th) and 27.2°C at Douglas-Charles (August 25th)

2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season

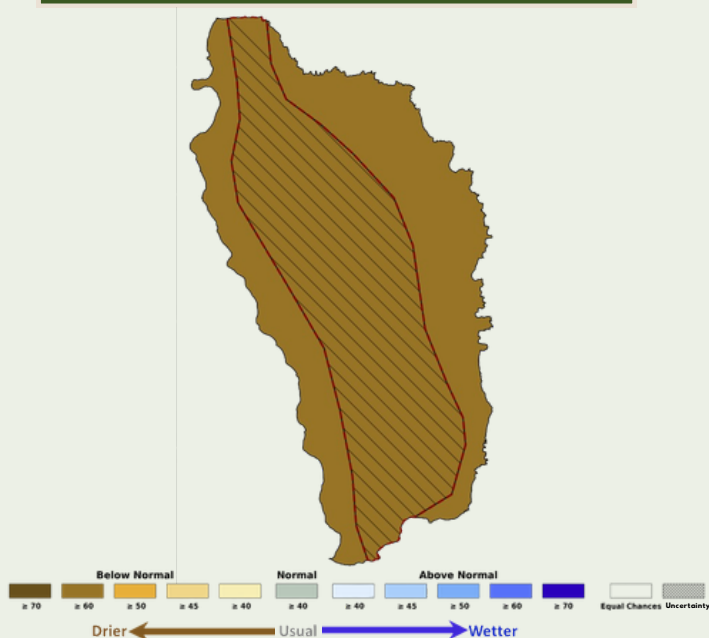
By the end of August 2026, the Atlantic hurricane season had produced five named storms—Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly and Edouard—with no hurricanes recorded.

June-July-August 2026 Forecast Verification			
CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL (1991-2020)			
RAINFALL	Canefield Airport	Douglas-Charles Airport	
Accumulated Normal	474.2 to 756.8mm	544.4 to 768.5mm	
Forecast	below normal	below normal	
Observed	334.6mm (below normal)	391.2mm (below normal)	
Wet Days Normal	45 to 64 days	53 to 67 days	
Forecast	39 to 55 days	47 to 62 days	
Observed	37 days (below range)	54 days (within range)	
TEMPERATURE AVERAGE (2011-2025)			
Average Maximum	32.4°C to 32.7°C	30.7°C to 31.2°C	
Forecast	Warmer than usual	Equal chances	
Observed	32.8°C (warmer than usual)	30.6°C (cooler than usual)	
Average Mean	28.4°C to 28.7°C	27.6°C to 28.0°C	
Forecast	Warmer than usual	Cooler than usual	
Observed	28.8°C (warmer than usual)	27.5°C (cooler than usual)	
Average Minimum	24.3°C to 24.7°C	24.6°C to 25.0°C	
Forecast	Warmer than usual	Cooler than usual	
Observed	24.8°C (warmer than usual)	25.2°C (warmer than usual)	

INFLUENCING FACTORS

- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern equatorial Pacific have warmed to very strong El Niño conditions and are forecast to remain so through February 2027 (100% confidence). This pattern is often associated with reduced tropical cyclone and shower activity across the Caribbean, but with increased heat and air humidity.
- SSTs hovering around average in the Main Development Region for hurricanes (MDR), but running 0.5-1°C warmer than usual in the subtropical North Atlantic. Further increases are *likely*. Warm SSTs favour higher air temperatures, higher humidity, above-average rainfall, more frequent extreme rainfall events and increased tropical cyclone activity.
- A reduction in episodes of Saharan dust are expected. These dust intrusions can suppress shower activity when present.

RAINFALL PROBABILITY FORECAST (%)



Drought conditions are evolving and have the potential to become impactful by the end of November.

At least two significant dry spells are possible (*low confidence*).

Rainfall accumulation is *likely* to be lower than usual. There is a high chance of reduced wetness, but with occasional heavy rainfall.

Rainy days and wet spells are expected to be less frequent than usual (*medium to high confidence*). Expect

- About 38–51 wet days along the west and 53–68 along the east (wet day = $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$)
- One to five 7-day wet spells
- Three to four very wet 7-day spells
- Five to nine excessive rainfall events (at least 30mm in 24 hours), which could trigger flash flooding

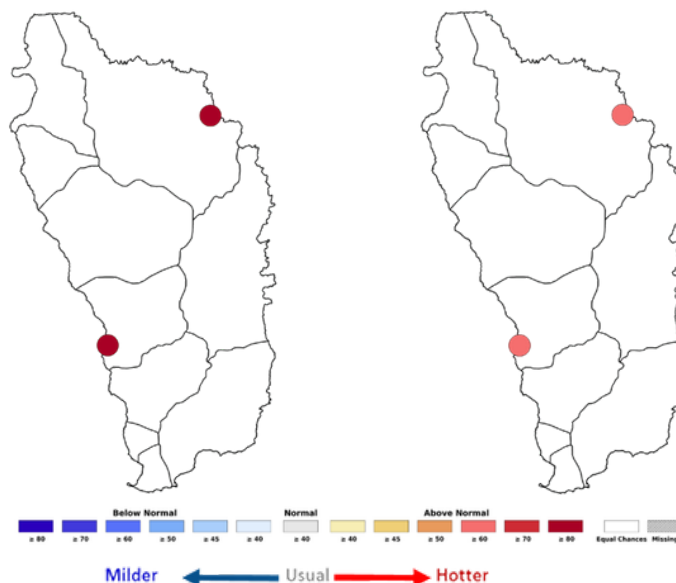
The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially ends on November 30th. The August update suggests a higher chance of a below-normal season. Regardless, it only takes one system to cause significant impact — remain prepared.

Below-normal rainfall totals are likely for the west, with equal chances for above, below or normal for the east for the December 2026 to February 2027 season (*low to medium confidence*). **Stay updated!**

TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY FORECAST (%)

Daytime Highs

Night-time Lows



Temperatures are likely to be at least as warm as usual.

Potentially impactful daytime and nighttime heat is expected, especially as the heat season peaks in September. The season officially ends at the end of October.

Medium chance for at least 30 hot days.

The Cool Season is set to start in December. There is a low chance of extreme heat during December–February, but the season as a whole is likely to be at least as warm as usual.

SARGASSUM INFLUX AND CORAL BLEACHING OUTLOOKS

Mostly clear conditions are expected with mild influxes.

Coral bleaching stress is currently at Watch levels and is expected to continue through September. Conditions are forecast to reach Warning level (risk of possible bleaching) in October, with a risk of Alert Level 1 (reef-wide bleaching) by November.



September-October-November (SON) Season RAINFALL CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL (1991-2020)

RAINFALL	CANEFIELD AIRPORT	DOUGLAS-CHARLES AIRPORT
Normal	434.3 to 699.0mm	730.4 to 1051.1mm
Wet Days Normal	39 to 52 days	55 to 69 days
7-Day Wet Spells Normal	4 to 7	4 to 8
7-Day Dry Spells Normal	1 to 2	1
TEMPERATURE AVERAGE (2011-2025)		
Average Maximum	32.2°C to 32.6°C	30.6°C to 31.1°C
Average Mean	27.9°C to 28.3°C	27.1°C to 27.4°C
Average Minimum	23.7°C to 23.9°C	23.5°C to 23.9°C

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



- **Crops:** Soil moisture levels will likely be low especially along western and northern regions. Choose crops that are low-moisture tolerant and plan irrigation ahead of need. Mulching can help retain what moisture is available.
- Set up water storage/ harvesting systems to make the most of available rainfall throughout the season. Keep drains clear and land stabilised so heavy downpours do not cause erosion or wash out crops.
- **Brush Fires:** Clear dry vegetation around farms and property, avoid uncontrolled burning and ensure that any agricultural burning is closely monitored and properly contained.
- Farmers should have a hurricane plan ready: harvest and secure mature crops ahead of any approaching system; stake or brace young trees and structures; and secure loose equipment, greenhouses, documents, livestock and inputs (feed, seedlings, tools) before a storm arrives.
- **Livestock:** Provide shade and steady water access to reduce heat stress and disease risk, particularly for outdoor animals.
- **Aquaculture:** Watch pond/ tank water levels and temperature closely; top up and aerate during dry spells to reduce stress on stock.
- **Fisherfolk/ Mariculture:** Keep updated on expected sea conditions. Keep boats, gear and engines checked and ready. A quieter season doesn't mean a safe one — it only takes one system to cause damage.

TOURISM



- Outdoor activities and trails should generally run smoothly, but operators should still check daily forecasts and have a plan ready for sudden flash flooding or landslide-related access issues.
- **Visitor health & safety:** Keep visitors hydrated and shaded during hot spells, with adequate cooling available in accommodations and transport.
- **Coral reef:** Warmer seas may increase stress and bleaching risk for coral reefs. Avoid touching, standing on, or anchoring on reefs to prevent further damage.
- Dive operators, tourism operators and fisherfolk should watch for coral discolouration and report it where possible.
- **Sargassum:** Avoid beaches and coastal areas with dense sargassum, as decomposing mats can reduce air quality, create unpleasant odours and make walking or swimming unsafe. Plan activities to avoid affected areas.
- **Infrastructure & operations:** Secure marine and coastal facilities, including dive equipment and boats during rough seas; Keep hiking trails and roads clear of debris and maintain contingency plans for flood disruptions.

For Regional Sectoral Bulletins (Agriculture, Health and Tourism)

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

Source: Dominica Meteorological Service (DMS) in collaboration with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative (NOAA) ; UWI-CERMES

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Visit us: www.weather.gov.dm

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WATER



- **Reduced water availability:** Lower stream and spring flows may affect water availability in vulnerable systems; promote conservation and monitor supplies.
- **Storage needs:** Periods of reduced inflow may increase pressure on available storage; maintain tanks and reservoirs and identify alternative sources.
- **Supply disruptions:** Heavy rainfall may increase turbidity and debris at intakes, potentially disrupting supply; maintain intakes and contingency measures.
- **Infrastructure:** Inspect and maintain vulnerable pipelines, intakes and access routes, particularly where landslides or flooding could affect operations.
- **Community impacts:** Prepare for localized supply interruptions through timely public advisories and alternative water distribution arrangements.

HEALTH



- **Heat stress:** Hot conditions may increase the risk of heat exhaustion and dehydration, particularly during hot spells. Encourage hydration, shade and reduced strenuous activity during the hottest periods.
- **Children:** Children are particularly vulnerable to heat stress; ensure access to water, shade and well-ventilated spaces, especially during school, sports and outdoor activities.
- **Vulnerable groups:** Older adults, outdoor workers and people with existing health conditions may require additional protection during periods of increased heat.
- **Water and vector-related illnesses:** Changes in water availability and rainfall intensities may increase risks associated with unsafe water, stagnant water and mosquito breeding. Strengthen hygiene, water safety and vector-control measures.
- **Saharan dust/ air pollutants:** Increased air pollution during wildfires and dust episodes could trigger respiratory illnesses. Limit outdoor activities during events.
- **For Health Practitioners:** Maintain surveillance and early detection of climate-sensitive diseases. Provide health education in communities to safeguard against heat stress and air pollutants and to promote proper nutrition, hydration and safe water storage. Collaborate with other ministries.
- **For detailed information visit**
<https://weather.gov.dm/newsletters/health-climatic-bulletin>

ENERGY



- **Hydropower:** Changes in river flows may affect hydroelectric generation; monitor water availability and optimize generation and backup capacity where needed.
- **Increase in demand:** Higher temperatures and increased cooling needs may further raise energy demand.
- **Transmission & distribution:** Heavy rainfall, landslides and falling trees may damage poles, lines and access routes, causing localized outages. Inspect vulnerable corridors and clear vegetation where possible.
- **System resilience:** Prioritize maintenance of vulnerable infrastructure and ensure crews, equipment and materials are positioned for rapid response to weather-related disruptions.