

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

- ◆ Potential expansion of impactful drought
- ◆ Humid heat peaking in October in the Guianas and likely lingering in the Lesser Antilles, culminating in heatwaves
- ◆ Unusually irregular and infrequent tropical cyclone activity
- ◆ Unusually low shower, wet spell and excessive rainfall event frequency
- ◆ High to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts still exists, none the less, across the region, with the possible exception of the ABC Islands and French Guiana.
- ◆ Coral reef bleaching potential around the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles.
- ◆ Dusty Saharan air intrusions, though infrequent at this time, can further inhibit tropical cyclone activity, while exacerbating heat and deteriorating air quality.

AUGUST IN REVIEW

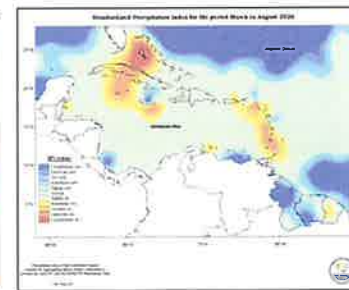
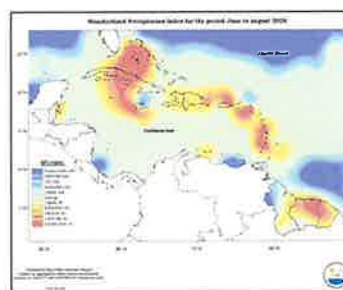
Apart from Anguilla that was normal to moderately wet, conditions throughout the eastern Caribbean were mostly normal to below normal during the month of August. Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, Guadeloupe and Antigua normal; Grenada and St Vincent were severe to extremely dry; Saint Lucia severe to moderately dry; Martinique slight to exceptionally dry; Dominica severely dry to normal; St Kitts moderately dry to normal; St Maarten normal to exceptionally dry; Anguilla exceptionally dry to slightly wet; St Thomas moderately dry; and St Croix slight to moderately dry. In the Guianas, conditions were mostly exceptionally dry in northeast Guyana, western half of French Guiana and southeast Suriname to moderately wet in northern Suriname. Aruba was slightly dry to normal and Curacao moderate to slightly dry.

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

The month of August was predominantly drier than July across most of the region, with the exception of Belize.

WATER STATUS

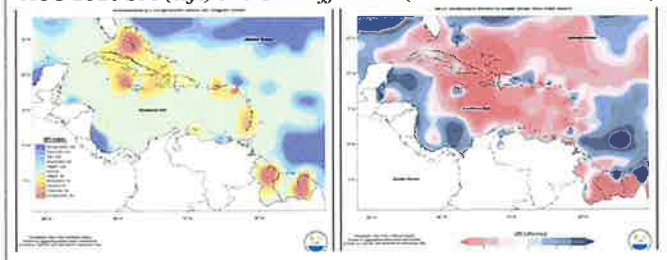
Severe (or worse) agricultural drought has developed in the Northwest Bahamas, cays of northern Belize, Grand Cayman, Central Cuba, southwest & eastern Dominican Republic, French Guiana, eastern Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Martin, northern Suriname, Windward Islands. – Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Central Cuba, Grand Cayman, Grenada, northeast Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Tobago. – Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in Grand Cayman, parts of western French Guiana, Tobago, St. Barts, St. Kitts, Windward Islands.



AGRI-NEWS

Jamaica: Caribbean farmers facing worsening drought. Read more [glob-
alclimaterisk.org](http://globalclimaterisk.org).

AUG 2026 SPI (left) and SPI Difference (JUL 2026 and AUG 2026)



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

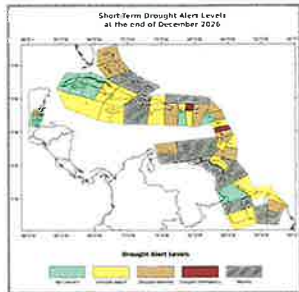
ABOUT CarisAM

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

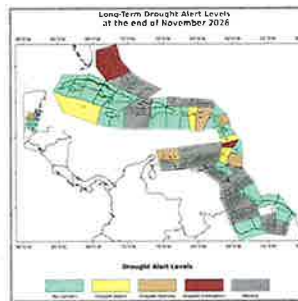
There is some concern for agricultural drought that can impact soil moisture availability by the end of October 2026 across the ABC Islands, Northwest Bahamas, Eastern Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, French Guiana, coastal Guyana, Martinique, northeast Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, USVI and possibly across the Northern Bahamas, Barbados, northwest Belize, northern & Central Cuba, Grand Cayman, Dominican Republic, far southern Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, northwest & southeast Puerto Rico, St. Barts, St. Martin, northern Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.



Concern exists over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of December across Dominica and is evolving across the ABC Islands, Antigua, Northern & Northwest Bahamas, northwest Belize, eastern-most Dominican Republic, interior French Guiana, Grenada, Martinique, St. Barts, Saint Lucia, St. Martin, Tobago, USVI. Interests in Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Eastern & parts of Central Cuba, northern & southern Dominican Republic, coastal Guianas, far southern Guyana, other areas

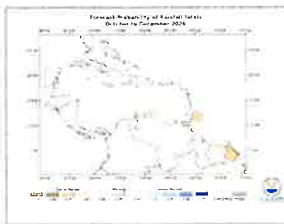
in the Lesser Antilles, northwest & southeast Puerto Rico should also aware of this potential threat.

There is immediate 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 the Northern & Northwest Bahamas, Saint Lucia and possibly across the ABC Islands, Antigua, northwest Belize, Tobago, USVI. Interests in Grand Cayman, Grenada, Martinique, eastern Puerto Rico, St. Vincent should also be aware of this potential threat. 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 (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026)



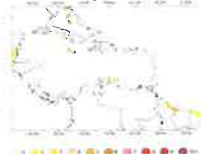
Rainfall totals from October to December are likely to be the usual or less in the ABC Islands, parts of the Lesser Antilles and the Guianas.

Though lower than other years, the potential for flooding, flash floods, compound hazards/cascading impacts due to excessive rains is moderate to high. Water recharge rates in surface reservoirs and rivers will likely be slower than usual. Unusually low number of wet days (i) dampens the number of rain

disruptions of outdoor activities; (ii) slowly builds up surface & soil moisture which reduce wildfire potential; and (iii) reduces the prevalence of moisture-related pests and diseases.

Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells

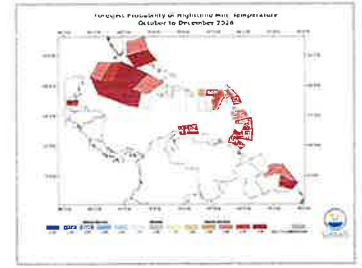
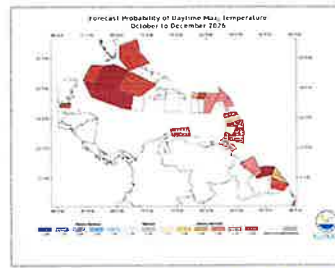
MAX number of 10-day dry spells



Favourable potential for the occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells across Jamaica, Cuba and coastal Guianas from October to December.

At least five to eight 10-day dry spells may be observed across Cuba.

Day-time temperatures (maximum) will likely be at least as warm as usual, with recurrent episodes of excessive, humid heat - culminating in heatwaves—through October in Belize, and the Antilles, through November in the Guianas, causing heat stress, especially in vulnerable persons and communities.



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

CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

Drought (short- and long-term) affecting Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts, Martinique, Tobago, US Virgin Islands, Grand Cayman and Antigua

- ◆ Store available water and use efficient irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, to maintain adequate soil moisture.
- ◆ Apply organic mulch around crops to reduce evaporation and conserve soil moisture.
- ◆ Prioritise irrigation for young and newly established plants and crops at critical growth stages, particularly flowering and fruit development.
- ◆ Monitor crops for drought stress, wilting, and pests, particularly mites, scales, thrips, and whiteflies, and adjust management practices as needed.
- ◆ Feed livestock during cooler periods, preferably early morning or late evening, to reduce heat stress.
- ◆ Stockpile adequate forage and water to sustain livestock during dry periods.
- ◆ Maintain proper ventilation in animal housing and avoid overcrowding.

Below-Normal Rainfall, but Flash Flooding Still Possible

- ◆ Clear field drains and watercourses to improve runoff and prevent waterlogging.
- ◆ Monitor weather advisories and secure farm equipment, inputs and livestock in flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Delay planting, fertilising, and pesticide spraying when heavy rain risks runoff or loss of inputs.
- ◆ Apply fertiliser in smaller doses and avoid application before heavy rainfall.
- ◆ Regularly scout crops for diseases that thrive in wet conditions.
- ◆ Move livestock to higher, sheltered areas before flooding.

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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