

Vol. 1 Issue 1

April 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dominica Meteorological Service announces its first National Agro-Meteorological Monthly Bulletin. This bulletin seeks to provide monitoring and forecast information at the national level, particularly for rainfall, which is seen as the most variable and limiting climate parameter in Dominica's agriculture. This bulletin is presented with the support of the Caribbean Agro-Meteorological Initiative (CAMI). The development of a tripartite committee is being undertaken. Feedback is welcome from farmers and the wider agricultural community on this bulletin, indicating usefulness, relevance, appropriateness of language and possible changes to be made.

OVERVIEW OF WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR APRIL 2012

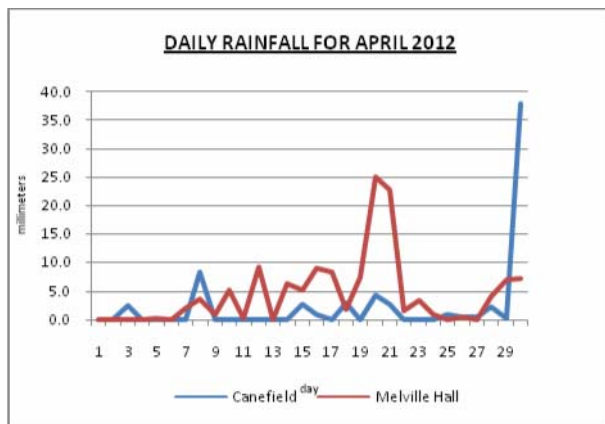


Figure 1: Daily Rainfall at Canefield and Melville-Hall

Canefield recorded above normal rainfall while Melville Hall Airport recorded below normal rainfall for the month of April; however Melville-Hall's rainfall was more widely distributed. An area of disturbed weather contributed to the maximum daily rainfall of 25.0mm (almost 1 inch) at Melville-Hall on the 20th. Canefield recorded 38.0mm (over 1 inch) on the 30th; this was more than half of the month's total as a result of unsettled weather over the area.

The longest dry spell at Melville Hall was 6 days while at Canefield there were two 6-days spells.

Farmers on the west and south-west coasts would have depended heavily on irrigation methods throughout the month.

The maximum wind gust recorded at Canefield was 57km/h on the 11th and 48km/h at Melville Hall on the 29th.

| Parameter | Canefield Airport | Melville-Hall Airport |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rainfall Total | 66.6mm | 132.0mm |
| Normal | 54.8mm | 171.8mm |
| No. Rainfall days (>1.0mm) | 8 | 19 |
| Average Temperature | 27.6°C | 26.2°C |
| Normal | 27.9°C | 27.2°C |
| Maximum Temperature | 32.5°C (23 rd) | 30.8°C (7 th) |
| Minimum Temperature | 21.0°C (14 th) | 21.0°C (14 th) |
| Relative Humidity | 63% | 73% |

Table 1: Monthly Weather Parameters

CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR MAY

Canefield Airport:

Normal rainfall is 92.0mm with 10 rainfall days. There is a 96% chance of having at least 5-days dry spell and a 57% chance of at least 10-days

dry spell. Average daily temperature is 28.8°C while the average maximum is 33.2°C and the average minimum is 22.2°C.

Melville-Hall Airport:

Normal rainfall is 244.5mm with 17 rainfall days. There is a 53% chance of getting at least 5-days dry spell and a 17% chance of at least 10-days dry spell. Average daily temperature is 28.0°C while the average maximum is 31.2°C and the average minimum is 21.6°C.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ON SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECASTS

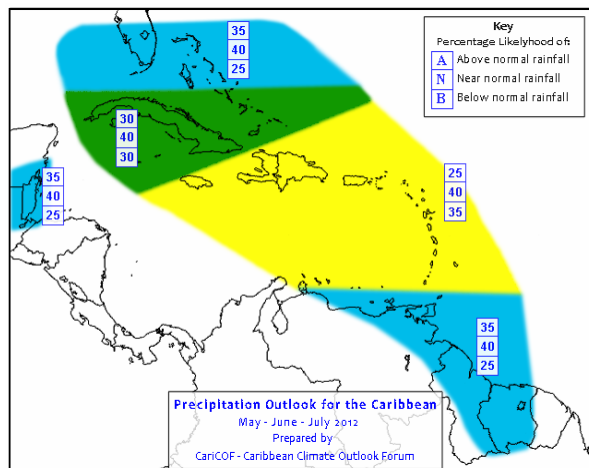


Figure 2: Precipitation outlook for the Caribbean; May-June-July 2012

- Models are indicating that during the period May-June-July, rainfall over Dominica is likely to be near normal with a slight tendency to below normal.
- For this period, there is a 25% chance that rainfall total will be above normal, a 40% chance of being near normal and a 35% of being below normal.

- Air temperature at 2m should be trending from slightly above normal down to slightly below normal as one move from north to south across the region for the period May to July. Current sea surface temperature observations and predictions further suggest that surface waters in the region will be cooler than in past two years, possibly hindering some convective activity this time around.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Considering the probabilities of at least 5-day dry spells especially on the western coast of the island, farmers are encouraged harvest rain water for irrigation purposes in the event of these dry spells. Additionally, farmers may undertake various mulching practices and the use of compost material to preserve soil moisture.

As the rainy season approaches, the chance of weather systems moving across the area increases. Farmers should pay attention to these as extreme rainfall events may result in waterlogged soils, landslides and flooding. Farm practices should also be undertaken to reduce soil erosion and improve drainage.

MOON PHASES

| | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Full moon | | Jun 4 |
| Last quarter | | Jun 11 |
| New moon | May 20 | Jun 19 |
| First quarter | May 28 | Jun 27 |