

- + Exceptional drought conditions reported for southeastern and south central stations.**
- + Below normal rainfall forecast for most stations for July through September.**
- + Above normal Temperature forecast to continue through September 2015.**

Weather Summary for month of June 2015

Throughout the month of June high pressure ridges coupled with a few occasional tropical waves were the most dominant weather features affecting the island. Towards the end of the month the country was affected by a series of higher than normal temperatures coupled with extremely strong winds.

During the month, Sangster in the northwest recorded 39.6 mm of rainfall, while Norman Manley in the southeast recorded no rainfall. There were three (3) rainfall days reported for Sangster. Both Manley and Sangster received well below the average rainfall for the month of June (1971-2000 mean).

The highest maximum temperature recorded for Sangster Airport was 35.5°C (28th June) meanwhile 35.3°C (20th June) was reported for Norman Manley Airport which exceeded the 20-year average for both locations.



Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), developed by T.B. McKee, N.J. Doesken, and J. Kleist in 1993, is based only on precipitation. One unique feature is that the SPI can be used to monitor conditions on a variety of time scales namely 1- month, 3-month, 6-month, 9-month and 12-month periods. This temporal flexibility allows the SPI to be useful in both short-term agricultural and long-term hydrological applications.

KEY

SPI Value	Category	SPI Value	Category
0 to -0.4	Normal drought	0 to 0.4	Normal Wetness
-0.5 to -0.7	Abnormally Dry (30%tile)	0.5 to 0.7	Abnormal Wetness (70%tile)
-0.8 to -1.2	Moderate Drought (20%tile)	0.8 to 1.2	Moderate Wetness (80%tile)
-1.3 to -1.5	Severe Drought (10%tile)	1.3 to 1.5	Severe Wetness (90%tile)
-1.6 to -1.9	Extreme Drought (5%tile)	1.6 to 1.9	Extreme Wetness (95%tile)
-2.0 or less	Exceptional Drought (2%tile)	2.0 or more	Exceptional Wetness (98%tile)

Table 1. Rainfall and Drought Analysis for Selected Stations

Parish	Station	June Monthly Total (mm)	Percent of 30 year Mean (%)	SPI for June
Hanover	Mount Peto	141	47	0.3
Westmoreland	Sav-la-mar	41	21	-0.4
Westmoreland	Frome	80	36	-0.2
Manchester	Sutton	30	22	-1.7
St. Elizabeth	Y.S Estates	31	20	-0.3
St. Elizabeth	Potsdam	26	26	-0.5
Clarendon	Beckford Kraal	31	24	-0.6
St. Catherine	Tulloch	29	18	-0.9
St. Catherine	Worthy Park	33	21	-1.9
Trelawny	Orange Valley	20	24	-1.0
St. James	Sangster	40	39	-2.3
St. Ann	Cave Valley	27	21	-1.0
St. Mary	Hampstead	13	16	-1.3
Portland	Shirley Castle	16	11	-1.8
St. Thomas	Serge Island	0	0	-3.0
KSA	Langley	160	100	-0.5
KSA	Manley Airport	0	0	-2.1



Precipitation Forecast July to September 2015

The rainfall outlooks for the period July to September, from the Global Dynamic Models as well as Climate Predictability Tool (CPT) are indicating warmer than normal temperatures with below normal rainfall for the Caribbean as well as the Jamaica.

Of the seventeen rainfall stations that were examined across the island, ten are likely to receive below normal rainfall. Our most recent forecast indicates most eastern parishes are likely to experience below normal rainfall. The parishes of St. Thomas, Portland, St Mary, St Ann, and Trelawny will experience the greatest deficit in rainfall during the period.

Table 2. Climate Predictability Tool (CPT) Outlook JAS 2015.

Stations	Below (B) %	Normal (N) %	Above (A) %
Manley (Kingston)	35	25	40
Sangster (St. James)	55	25	20
Sav. (Westmoreland)	50	25	25
Beckford (Clarendon)	30	20	50
Serge Island (St. Thomas)	75	10	15
Cave Valley (St. Ann)	25	20	55
Tulloch Estate (St. Cath.)	30	20	50
Y.S. Estate (St. Elizabeth)	60	20	20
Hampstead (St. Mary)	70	15	15
Orange Valley (Trelawny)	80	10	10
Langley (Kingston)	40	25	35
Mount Peto (Hanover)	25	20	55



Shirley Castle (Portland)	65	20	15
Suttons (Manchester)	30	20	50
Potsdam (St. Elizabeth)	40	25	35
Frome (Westmoreland)	40	25	35
Worthy Park (St. Cath.)	30	20	50
Jamaica	45	20	35

Key

- A: Above normal rainfall means greater than 66 percentile of the rank data
- N: Near normal rainfall means between 33 and 66 percentile of the rank data
- B: Below normal rainfall means below 33 percentile of the rank data

Drought Forecast September 2015

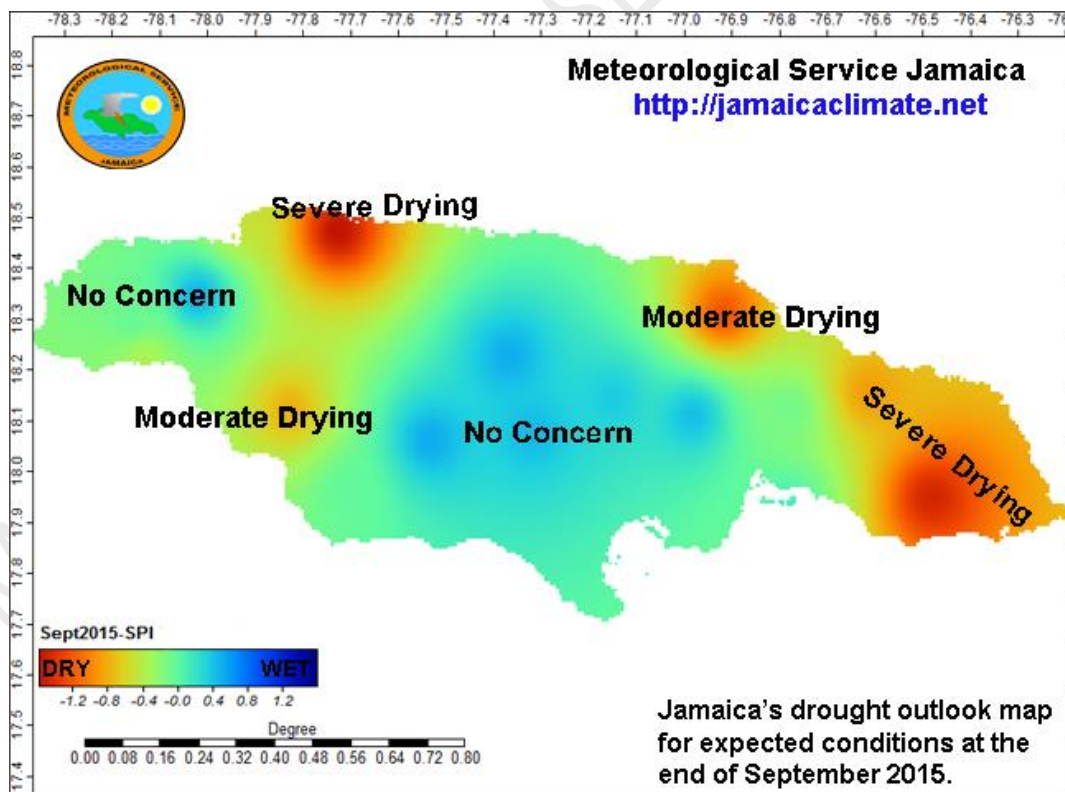


Fig.2 Expected drought conditions by end of September 2015



Temperature Forecast July to September 2015

Location	Below (B) %	Normal (N) %	Above (A) %
Jamaica Temperature Outlook	10	15	75

Summary and Expected Agricultural Impacts

Precipitation forecast for the coming months (July to September) are below normal for most stations with the exception of Manley, Suttons and Worthy Park for which above normal is being forecast. Conditions will worsen for the other stations if the forecast of below normal activity is realized.

Interventions will be necessary in the worst affected areas to assist with water needs and also for strategies to be employed going forward as we brace for what could be a very bad situation in terms of water availability.