

AGROMET BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

- ✚ Stations in seven of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Three parishes experienced meteorological drought conditions.
- ✚ Near-normal to above-normal rainfall is forecast for June to August 2021.
- ✚ Above-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

What Happened: March – May 2021

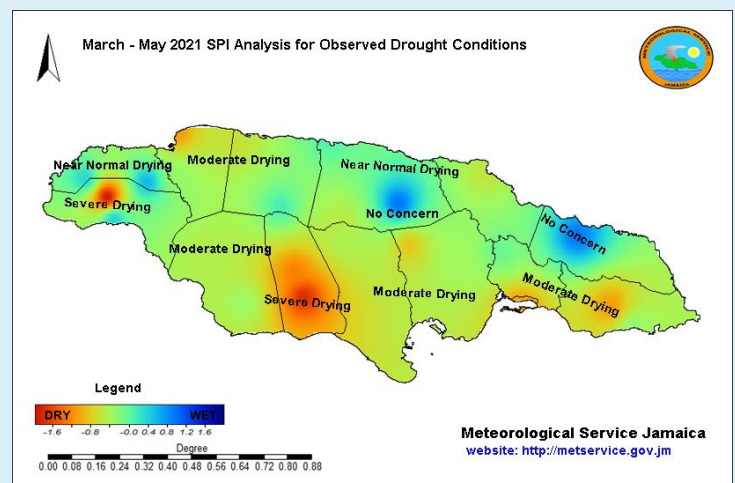
Based on analysis done (image to the right) there was a general drying trend in most parishes with, severe dryness in Manchester and sections of Westmoreland. Moderately dry conditions were observed in all other southern parishes, along with St. James and sections of Trelawny. Near-normal levels of dryness were observed in Hanover, St. Mary and sections of St. Ann.

Meteorological drought conditions were experienced in St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine and St. Thomas.

There was no concern however, for farming communities in western Portland and southeastern St. Ann where, mild wetness was observed.

Temperatures, ranging from 1-2°C warmer, were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of May 2021, when compared to May 2020.

Wet and Dry Conditions, March – May 2021



Read more by visiting our website:

<https://www.metSERVICE.gov.jm/climate-products>

ABOUT US:

This report provides short term precipitation forecasts, as well as drought monitoring products that will assist in making critical decisions about the growing season for crops, as well as irrigation scheduling and water management.

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Seasonal Forecast: June – August 2021

For the June to August period, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be near-normal to above-normal during the early months of the hurricane season. Based on this projection, there is a possibility that there could be some relief from the dry conditions affecting many farming communities especially those in the south. Near-normal dryness could return to farming areas in Portland and especially in the west.

St. Elizabeth and Manchester could benefit the most from rainfall over the next three months, with mild levels of wetness expected.

Temperatures for the next three months are likely to be above-normal during the summer months.

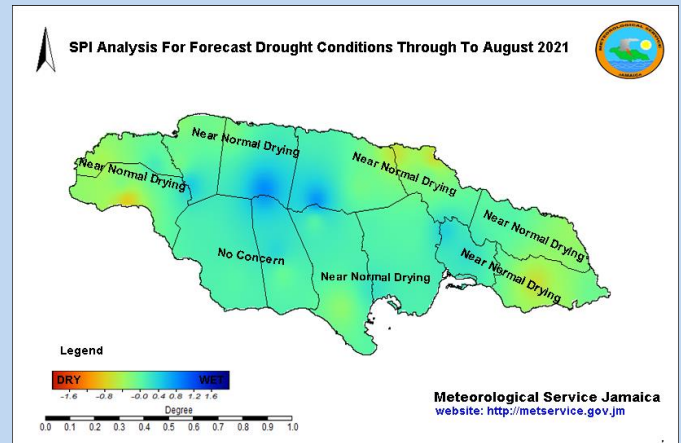
Possible Impacts

The forecast for near-normal to above-normal rainfall could bring relief to farming communities being impacted by the dry/drought conditions. It could also improve the availability of water with the recharging of aquifers and the replenishment of dams and other water storage facilities.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor the drying trend in conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, particularly farmers, to continue employing rainwater harvesting solutions and other methods to retain soil moisture.

The forecast for above-normal temperatures also increases the potential for heat-stress impacts, therefore, cooling solutions especially for animals should be employed.

Wet and Dry Conditions, June – August 2021



Seasonal Outlook, June – August 2021

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
Rainfall Outlook	30	30	40
Temperature Outlook	20	20	60

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