

HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

- ✚ Selected stations in ten parishes received below-normal rainfall in April.
- ✚ Sections of northeastern parishes continue to experience extremely dry conditions.
- ✚ Below-normal rainfall is forecast for Jamaica for May through to July.
- ✚ Seasonally uncomfortable high temperatures are forecast for the next 3 months.

SUMMARY

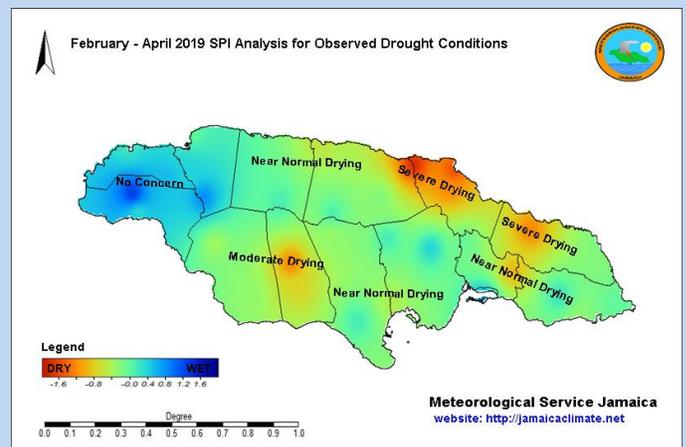
Selected stations in St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine, Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA), St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann, and Trelawny received below-normal rainfall in April. Varying levels of dryness were evident over several parishes, especially on the northeast and southwest sides of the island; with very dry conditions being observed in Portland, St. Mary and St. Elizabeth and to a lesser extent Manchester.

What Happened: February-April 2019

From analyses (Image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed over sections of northeastern and some southern parishes, with meteorological drought conditions been experienced in Portland, St. Mary and St. Elizabeth. Dry conditions were noticeable over sections of KSA, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Ann; however, these parishes were above drought conditions. Sections of Trelawny, St. Thomas and St. Catherine also experienced varying levels of dryness.

In contrast, areas in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James experienced wet conditions.

Wet and Dry Conditions, February- April 2019



Read more by visiting our website:
<https://www.jamaicacclimate.net/farmers-bulletin>

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.

AGROMET BULLETIN



Seasonal Forecast: May-July 2019

The projection over the next 3 months (May to July), which marks the transition from the early wet period (May) to the secondary dry period (July), is for below-normal rainfall across the island. Although, Jamaica could experience an increase in rainfall during May, this may not be sufficient to reverse the deficits in rainfall being experienced across the island during 2019 and coupled with the expected low rainfall amounts that is been forecast, it could result in more areas reporting drought conditions by the end of July.

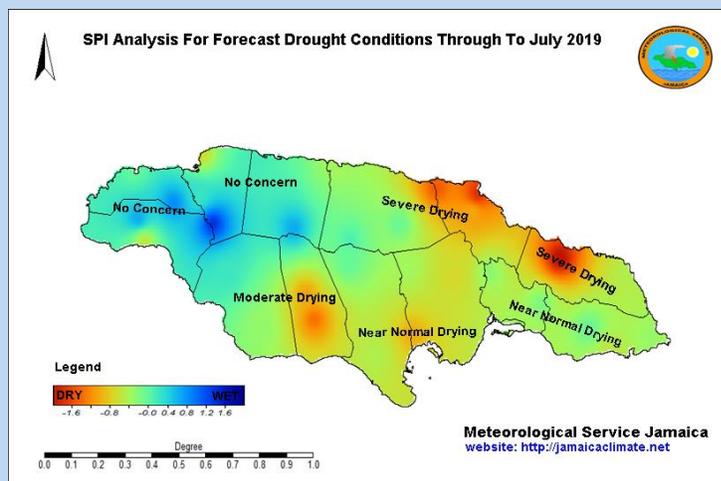
Possible Impacts

The forecast for reduced rainfall should not have an immediate impact in farming communities in Westmoreland, Hanover, and St. James where, wet conditions have been observed for several months.

For other parishes across the island and especially St. Mary, Portland and St. Elizabeth which were experiencing drought conditions, farming communities should implement drought monitoring plans to lessen the impacts of the drought/dry conditions, especially on crops and livestock ahead of the upcoming (traditional) mid-summer dry period (July).

Temperatures for the upcoming three-month period are likely to be warmer than normal and could lead to heat stress especially for poultry and livestock therefore, preventative measures should be in place to minimize impacts.

Wet and Dry Conditions, May-July 2019



Seasonal Outlook, May-July 2019

JAMAICA	Below (B) %	Normal (N) %	Above (A) %
Rainfall Outlook	40	30	30
Temperature Outlook	20	30	50

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