

AGROMET BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

- ✚ Stations in nine of 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ No parish experienced meteorological drought conditions.
- ✚ Near-normal rainfall is forecast for January to March 2021.
- ✚ Near-normal to above-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

What Happened: October – December 2020

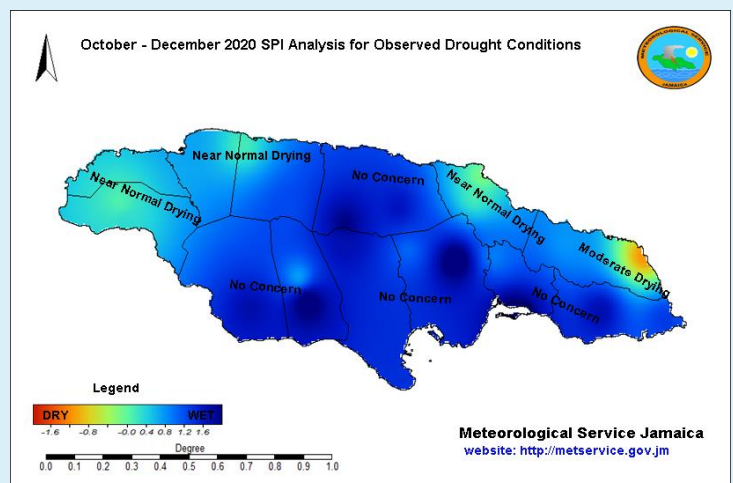
Based on analysis done (image to the right) farming communities in most parishes have experienced varying levels of wetness, with the exception being for sections of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James & St. Mary where mild dryness prevailed and in eastern Portland which experienced moderate dryness.

No parish experienced meteorological drought conditions in the November/December bi-monthly period.

With the transition from the wet season to the dry season, farming communities can expect a decrease in rainfall amounts when compared to those received in October and November.

Temperatures, ranging from 1-2°C cooler, were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of December 2020, when compared to December 2019.

Wet and Dry Conditions, October - December 2020



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: January – March 2021

For the three-month period of January to March, rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be near-normal during the dry season. Based on this projection, varying levels of wetness could prevail in farming communities in Trelawny, St. Ann, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine and St. Thomas. No significant changes in conditions are expected in Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James; however, mildly dry conditions are likely in Portland and sections of St. Mary.

Temperatures for the January to March 2021 period are likely to be near-normal to above-normal.

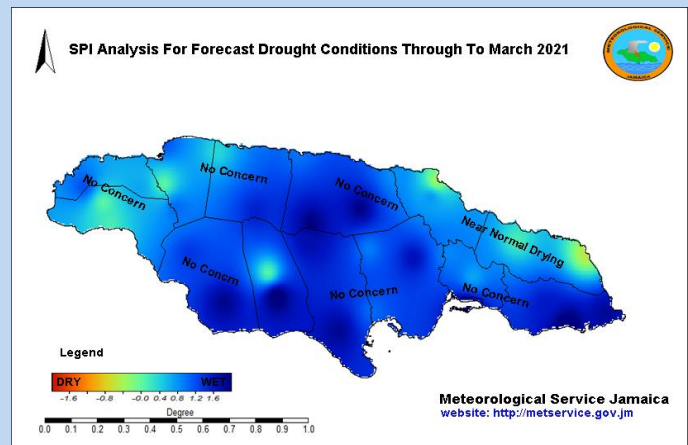
Possible Impacts

The forecast for near-normal rainfall during the dry season, should ensure the availability of water for irrigation in many rain-dependent farming communities, however, the prudent use of available water is being suggested. Farmers, should continue their planting schedules and consider, the inclusion of crops that don't require high amounts of water, prior to reaching fruition or maturity.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particular farmers, to manage pests and diseases that are still present.

The forecast for near-normal to above-normal temperatures should make for tolerable conditions during the daytime, however, cooler nights could have an impact on livestock and other animals.

Wet and Dry Conditions, January – March 2021



Seasonal Outlook, January – March 2021

JAMAICA	Below-Normal (%)	Normal (%)	Above-Normal (%)
Rainfall Outlook	33	33	33
Temperature Outlook	30	30	40

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