

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

- ✚ Selected stations in nine parishes received below-normal rainfall in May.
- ✚ Sections of northeastern parishes continue to experience extremely dry conditions.
- ✚ Below-normal rainfall is forecast for Jamaica for June through to August.
- ✚ Seasonally warmer than normal temperatures are forecast for the next 3 months.

SUMMARY

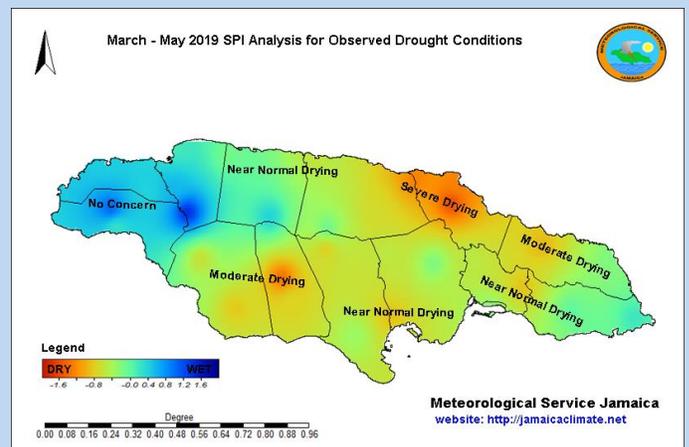
Selected stations in St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine, Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA), St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary and St. Ann received below-normal rainfall in May. Varying levels of dryness were evident over several parishes; with very dry conditions being observed in St. Mary and to a lesser extent in St. Ann, Portland, St. Thomas, KSA, St. Catherine, Clarendon Manchester and St. Elizabeth. Wet conditions were evident over Hanover, Westmoreland, St. James and southern Trelawny.

What Happened: March-May 2019

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

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

Wet and Dry Conditions, March-May 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: June-August 2019

The projection for the next 3 months (June to August), which includes the mid-summer dry period (July), is for below-normal rainfall across the Jamaica. Although the island received some rainfall in May, this only brought temporary relief from the dry conditions but, not sufficiently to reverse the deficit in amounts during 2019. Therefore, a quick return to drying conditions should be expected, along with, the possibility of an expansion and declaration of drought conditions to more parishes.

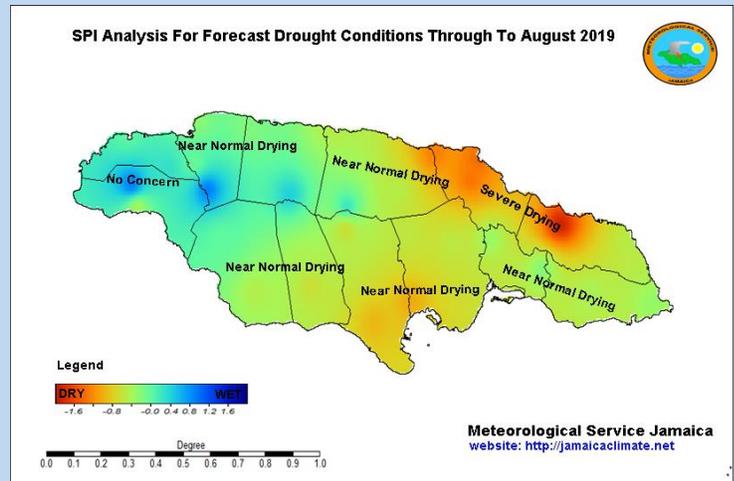
Possible Impacts

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

However, for eastern and central parishes and especially for St. Mary, Portland and St. Elizabeth which were experiencing or recently experienced drought conditions, farming communities should implement drought alleviation activities to lessen the impacts 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 hotter than normal and could lead to heat stress and related impacts and therefore, preventative measures should be put into place to minimize these impacts.

Wet and Dry Conditions, June-August 2019



Seasonal Outlook, June-August 2019

JAMAICA	Below (B) %	Normal (N) %	Above (A) %
Rainfall Outlook	55	25	20
Temperature Outlook	15	15	70

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