



HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

- ✚ Stations in all thirteen parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Twelve (12) of thirteen (13) parishes recorded meteorological drought.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is forecast for the island, for June to August.
- ✚ Above-normal temperatures are still expected for the next three months.

SUMMARY

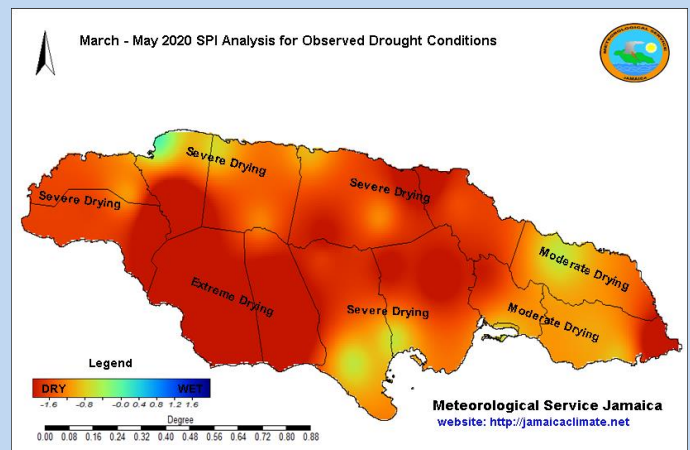
Stations in all of the 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall in May. Varying levels of dryness were observed across the island with severe to extremely dry conditions, along with meteorological drought being experienced in most parishes. Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is expected for Jamaica for the June to August period and this could exacerbate drying conditions in many parishes across the island. The forecast is for above-normal temperatures over the next three months and this could cause more heat stress impacts.

What Happened: March – May 2020

Based on analysis done (image to the right) the lack of sufficient amounts of rainfall has resulted in varying levels of dryness being observed across the island, with severe to extremely dry conditions being experienced in sections of Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine, St. Mary, St. Ann, St. James and Hanover. Moderately dry conditions were observed in sections Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Thomas and Portland. The drying conditions would have adversely affected farming communities in these parishes.

Warmer than normal temperatures, ranging from 1-3 °C were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of May 2020, when compared to May 2019.

Wet and Dry Conditions, March-May 2020



Read more by visiting our website:
<https://www.jamaicaclimate.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



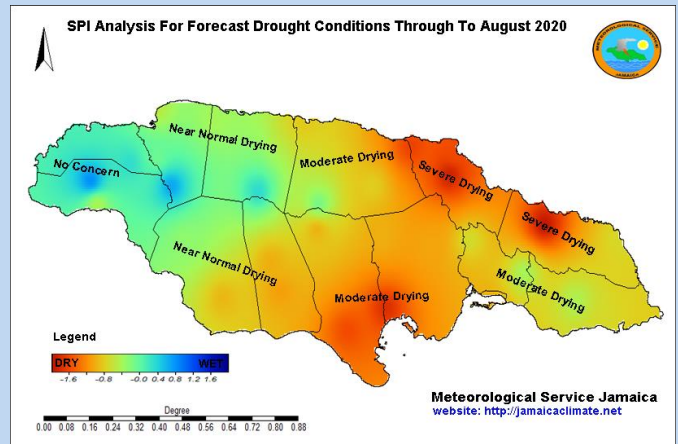
Seasonal Forecast: June – August 2020

For the next three months which includes the mid-Summer dry month of July, overall rainfall amounts for Jamaica are likely to be below-normal to near-normal. Based on the projections, there is the possibility that drying could continue in farming communities in Clarendon, St. Catherine, KSA, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary and St. Ann where, lower rainfall totals are expected. In contrast, farming communities in Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, Trelawny and northern sections of St. Elizabeth and Manchester could benefit the most from rainfall over the next three months, thereby providing some relief from the drying conditions. Temperatures for the June to August period are likely to be above-normal during this year's Summer period.

Possible Impacts

The forecast for less than expected rainfall could continue to present a challenge for the availability of water in farming communities which are currently being impacted by dry/drought conditions. These conditions could therefore, continue over the next three months. As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particular farmers, is to continue employing irrigation, along with, methods of retaining soil moisture. The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures could cause more heat stress impacts; therefore, cooling solutions for livestock and other animals should be continued.

Wet and Dry Conditions, June – August 2020



Seasonal Outlook, June - August 2020

JAMAICA	Below %	Normal %	Above %
Rainfall Outlook	40	30	30
Temperature Outlook	20	30	50

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