



Malawi 10-Day Rainfall & Agrometeorological Bulletin

Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services



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Season: 2009/2010

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Hot and dry weather covered most parts of Malawi...
- Land preparation was still a major on-farm agricultural activity...
- A slight improvement in rainfall amounts expected...

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

In the last ten days of October 2009, most parts of Malawi continued to experience dry weather. Rainfall continued to be confined to a few places mainly in the south and central Malawi. Places with significant ten day cumulative rainfall amounts (above 10mm) included Chingale in Zomba (36mm), Lujeri in Mulanje (18mm), Satemwa (15mm), Mangochi (14mm), Mzuzu in the north (12mm), Mpemba and Chileka in Blantyre (11mm).

Sporadic rains are most likely to persist over Malawi until major rain bearing systems are established over the country, normally between mid-November and December.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Mean maximum air temperature values were in the warm to hot category. Overall, average maximum temperatures ranged from 25°C at Dedza to 36°C at Ngabu while average minimum temperatures ranged from 15°C at Dedza to 24°C at Mangochi. See Table 1 for more details.

1.4 MEAN WIND SPEEDS

Average Wind speeds at a height of two metres above the ground level ranged from 1.6 at Chitedze to 5.3 metres per second at Chitipa or 5.8 – 19.1 Km/hr (see Table 1).

1.5 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

During the period under discussion, air over Malawi was generally dry except for a few places where air was relatively moist. Such places included Thyolo (77%), Dedza (62%), Mzuzu and Ngabu (61%). Daily average relative humidity values ranged from 45% at

Bolero to 77% at Thyolo. See Table 1 for more details.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The sporadic rains received during the last ten days of October 2009, inspired most farmers to speedup land preparation in readiness for the main effective rains for planting various crops. Apart from land preparation other agricultural activities included mobilization of resources for farm inputs. .

3. PROSPECTS OF 2009/10 RAINFALL SEASON

Climate models indicate that during the first three months (October to December 2009), the northern half of Malawi is most likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall while the Southern half will receive above normal to normal rainfall.

During the second three months (January to March 2010) the northern half of Malawi is most likely to receive above normal to normal rainfall while the Southern half is most likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall. The implication of above-normal rains on Agriculture is that this will provide reasonably good chances of agricultural success, although provision should be made for possibility of flooding, particularly in the low-lying areas

4. OUTLOOK 01 – 10 NOVEMBER 2009

A slight improvement in rainfall distribution and amount is expected during the first ten days of November 2009.

TABLE 1: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR 21 – 31 OCTOBER 2009

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	27.2	15.4	30.0	12.3	3.3	58
BOLERO	32.0	19.7	34.0	16.9		45
CHILEKA	31.3	19.4	34.6	16.9	3.8	54
NTAJA	32.0	20.3	35.0	17.0	3.1	54
CHITEDZE	30.5	16.7	32.0	14.1	1.6	51
CHITIPA	30.8	19.7	31.8	19.2	5.3	49
DEDZA	25.3	17.2	27.0	10.5	1.8	62
KARONGA	34.3	23.2	36.0	21.6	3.0	47
K I A	28.9	16.4	30.1	12.9	2.5	50
MAKOKA	N/A	16.7	N/A	13.1	2.0	57
MANGOCHI	N/A	24.0	N/A	19.9	2.5	57
MIMOSA	31.2	16.9	34.7	13.2	2.0	58
MONKEY BAY	32.9	23.1	35.1	20.9	2.8	49
MZUZU	27.3	15.9	29.5	13.0	2.3	61
NGABU	35.8	21.9	38.4	19.5	4.2	61
NKHATA BAY	33.8	19.8	34.8	17.7	1.1	57
SALIMA	31.8	22.8	33.7	21.1	3.2	52
THYOLO	32.4	18.3	33.0	N/A	N/A	77

Glossary of some terms on this table

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day = (Max of the day + Min of the same day)/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6