

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA MONTHLY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE CLIMATE SECTION

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service [Climate Section](#) is excited by the prospects of sending a member of staff to pursue graduate studies in Climate and Society at Columbia University, New York. The knowledge gained will be used to further meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities of climate change. We continue to welcome feedback on this bulletin.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE SUMMARY IN BRIEF FOR ANTIGUA – MAY 2013

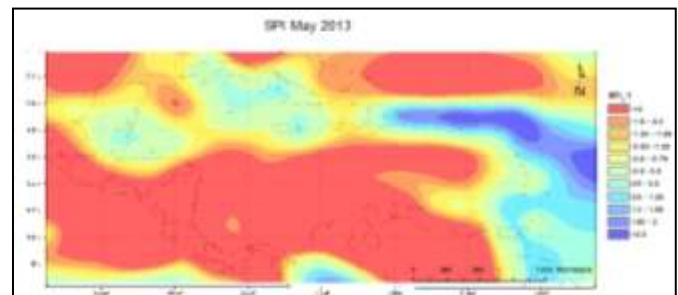
Wet weather continues to prevail across the area; this is the third month running with above normal [rainfall](#). The island average for May was 172.2 mm or 9.16 inches – the 14th wettest on record, for the given month (1928 – 2013). For the month, at the airport, there were 15 wet days (≥ 1 mm), which was above normal and the eighth highest on record, for the month (1968 – 2013); meanwhile, the eight heavy rainfall days were the third highest on record. The wettest day, May 6, had 85.4 mm – 37% of the total for the month. The mean [temperature](#) of 26.5°C was well below normal. Meanwhile, the mean daily maximum (28.9°C) and minimum temperatures (24.4°C) were well below normal and near normal respectively. See map 3 for rainfall distribution across Antigua.

Spring - March to May (MAM), had above normal rainfall, the eighth wettest on record and the wettest since 1993. The mean [temperature](#) for MAM of 25.9°C was below normal but the highest since 2010.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE SUMMARY IN BRIEF FOR THE CARIBBEAN – MAY 2013 (Taken from CIMH)

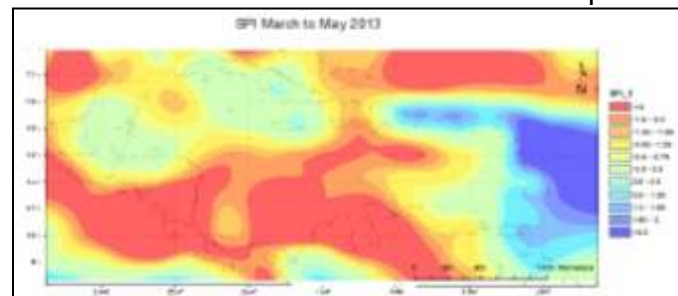
Normal to above normal rainfall was experienced in the Eastern Caribbean and Guyana. Trinidad was abnormal - moderately wet; Tobago, St. Lucia and Dominica normal; Grenada, Barbados and St. Vincent moderately wet; Antigua very wet; and

Guyana moderately wet in the west and abnormally wet in the east. Conditions in Jamaica ranged from normal in the west to moderately wet in the east. Belize was abnormally wet in central areas and normal in southern and northern extremes. Click on map 1 for larger view. ([rainfall descriptions](#)).

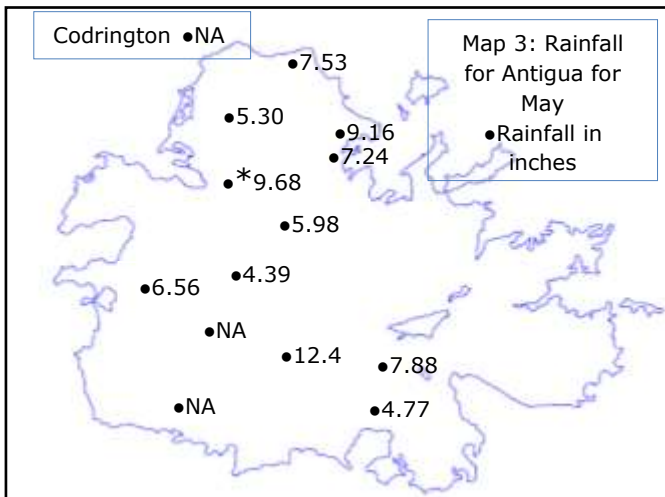


Map 1. Standardised Precipitation Index for May

The eastern Caribbean and Guyana were normal to above normal for the three month period. Trinidad was very wet; Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent and Anguilla moderately wet; Barbados and Antigua extremely wet; St. Lucia abnormally wet; Dominica exceptionally wet; and Guyana ranging from moderately wet in the northwest to normal in the east. Jamaica was normal in the west and abnormally wet in the east. Belize was normal. See map 2.



Map 2. Standardised Precipitation Index for MAM



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The weather, generally, was quite favourable for farming over the past month. Although for some farmers, there may have been a little too much rainfall over a relatively short period of time. To that extent, a few farmers experienced loss of crop due to excess rainfall and related problems such as pests and diseases. As an extension officer said, "the rain has its good and bad effects".

The weather outlooks for the next three months look relatively favourable for agriculture. The projections are for above normal rainfall for June and June to August. It is quite unlikely that there will be a shortage of water for irrigation; on the contrary, farmers need to put systems in place to deal with the elevated potential for excess rainfall. With respect to the temperature, the same period is expected to have above normal values. (See inserts on the left). For agricultural purposes and other activities, especially those sensitive to the weather, the [7-Day Forecast](#) and the [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#) are strongly recommended as very useful tools for planning day-to-day agricultural activities.

Although the weather was a bit challenging, crops planted during the month include cabbages, tomatoes, zucchini squashes, sweet potatoes, melons and sweet peppers were planted. Meanwhile, cabbages, tomatoes, herbs, spies, pumpkins okras, cassavas carrots and beets are in moderate supply. Cabbages and tomatoes are glutting the market while butternut squashes, onions and egg plant are among the produces that are scarce.

Please see our website for more products: www.antiguamet.com/Climate

WEATHER AND CLIMATE OUTLOOKS FOR ANTIGUA

MONTHLY WEATHER OUTLOOK – JUNE

Rainfall

Above normal rainfall is most likely with greater than **3.20 inches**. Probabilistically, there is a

- **45%** chance of above normal rainfall;
- **35%** chance of near normal rainfall and
- **20%** chance of below normal rainfall.

Temperature

Above normal temperature is most likely with greater than **28.0°C**. Probabilistically, there is a

- **50%** chance of above normal temperature;
- **35%** chance of near normal temperature and
- **15%** chance of below normal temperature.

SEASONAL OUTLOOKS – JUNE TO AUGUST

Rainfall





Above normal rainfall is most likely with greater than **11.74 inches**. Probabilistically, there is a

- **50%** chance of above normal rainfall;
- **35%** chance of near normal rainfall and
- **15%** chance of below normal rainfall.

Temperature

Above normal temperature is most likely with greater than **28.2°C**. Probabilistically, there is a

- **45%** chance of above normal temperature;
- **35%** chance of near normal temperature and
- **20%** chance of below normal temperature.

MOON PHASES FOR JUNE – AUGUST 2013			
New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
			
June			
Sat 8	Sun 16	Sun 23	Sun 30
July			
Mon 8	Mon 15	Mon 22	Mon 29
August			
Tue 6	Wed 14	Tue 20	Wed 28

References

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CAMI Monthly Bulletin, [online]. Available from:
 <http://63.175.159.26/~cimh/cami/regional_bulletin.html> [Accessed 12 Jun, 2013]

Acknowledgements

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Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service Climate Section
V. C. Bird International Airport, St. George, P. O. Box 1051, St. John's, Antigua

Internet URL: <http://www.antiguamet.com/climate> E-mail address: metoffice@antigua.gov.ag or dale_destin@yahoo.com Twitter: www.twitter.com/anumetservice Facebook: www.facebook.com/anumetservice
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ABMS CliSec

Editor/Meteorologist/Climatologist...Dale C. S. Destin (268) 764-5030