

# CARIBBEAN AGRO-CLIMATIC BULLETIN OF THE CARISAM



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A joint bulletin of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

## KEY MESSAGES

An intense peak of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season and the Caribbean Wet Season and Heat Season are likely. This could imply frequent and intense (i) episodes of oppressive humid heat; and (ii) tropical cyclones and severe weather, resulting in high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.

Should the intrusion of dry Saharan air (which usually peak through early August) be more frequent than usual, storm and shower activity may be more erratic, though intense in between episodes, while heat will remain in record territory.

## JUNE IN REVIEW

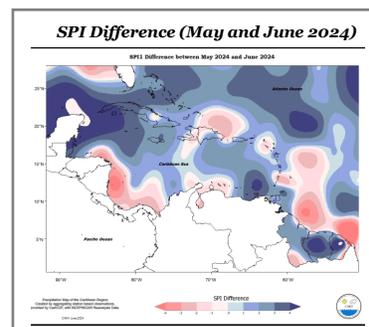
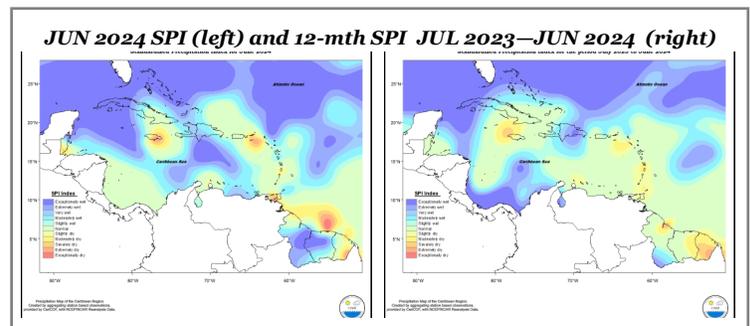
Mixed conditions were experienced across the eastern Caribbean over the month of June. Trinidad was extremely dry to moderately wet; Tobago moderately wet; Grenada, Barbados, Martinique and St Kitts normal; St Vincent slightly dry; Saint Lucia moderate to slightly dry; Dominica and Antigua were slight to mostly moderately wet, Guadeloupe moderate to mostly slightly wet; St Maarten slightly dry to normal; Anguilla normal to moderately wet; St Croix severe to extremely dry. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally wet in areas of Guyana and Suriname to extremely dry in northern Suriname and southeastern French Guiana. Aruba was slightly dry and Curacao was normal.

Puerto Rico was predominantly normal with slightly wet conditions in the extreme southwest and slightly dry areas in the extreme east. Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally wet on the extreme southern tip of the Dominican Republic to normal in the extreme west and east. Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the west to extremely dry in the east. Grand Cayman was exceptionally wet. Cuba ranged from exceptionally wet in the west to normal in eastern areas. Northern Bahamas ranged from extreme to exceptionally wet and Belize from severely dry in southern areas to extremely wet in the north.

## ABOUT CariSAM

The Caribbean Society for Agricultural Meteorology (CariSAM) is an online platform that hosts forums, provided online weather and climate information for agro-meteorologists, and much more. Agricultural interests can register and access relevant information and be a part of future capacity building exercises, and more. Visit us at: [www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb](http://www.carisam.cimh.edu.bb)

Predominantly normal conditions prevailed across the eastern Caribbean Islands during the 12-month period (July 2023 to June 2024). However, notably The Bahamas, northwestern Cuba, Hispaniola and the interior of Guyana were normal to exceptionally wet.



The month of June was predominantly wetter than May across the region.

Read more at <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/>

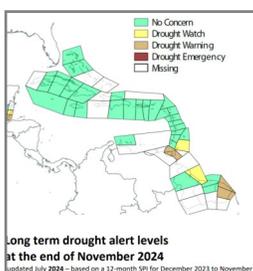
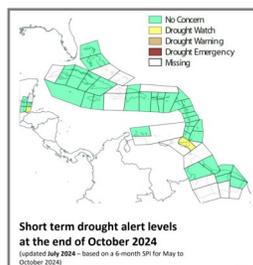
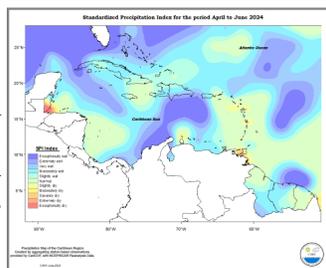
## AGRI-NEWS

**Jamaica:** Agriculture ministry moving quickly to provide assistance for farmers in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. Read more <https://jis.gov.jm/agriculture-ministry-moving-quickly-to-provide-assistance-for-farmers/>.

## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

### DROUGHT

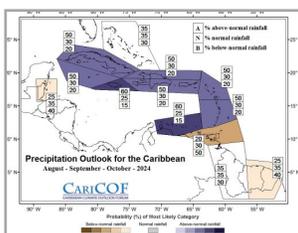
Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in Belize and Trinidad. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in coastal Guyana, western Jamaica, and French Guiana.



There should be little concern over short-term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of October, though portions of southern Belize and Trinidad should monitor their water resources.

There could possibly be some concern for long-term drought, that can impact large reservoirs, large rivers or groundwater, to present a challenge in farming by the end of November 2024 across southeast and western Belize, French Guiana, and Trinidad. Tobago and northern Guyana and Suriname should monitor their water resources for long term drought as November approaches.

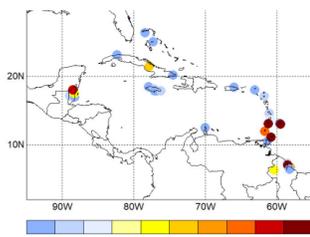
### RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (AUGUST – OCTOBER 2024)



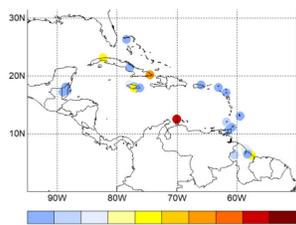
Rainfall totals from August through October are likely to be the usual or higher across the Antilles but, possibly, the usual or less in Belize, eastern parts of the Guianas and Trinidad & Tobago.

The potential for long-term flooding, flash floods and related hazards arising from very wet and extremely wet spells is high across the Islands and Belize. A moderate potential in the Guianas, increasing to high after November in coastal and northern areas.

Probability of at least THREE 7-day dry spells in ASO

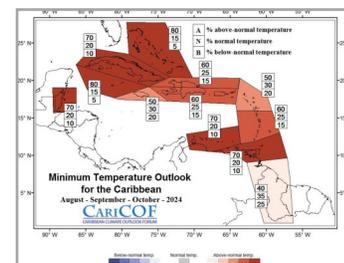
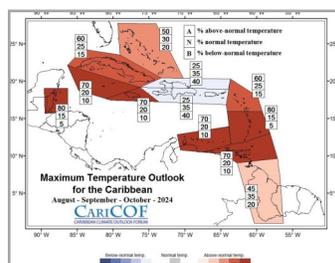


MAXIMUM number of 15-day dry spell in ASO



The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells is favourable across Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados and northern Belize.

Day-time (maximum) and night-time (minimum) temperatures, as well as air humidity will likely be considerably higher than usual in most areas. Frequent episodes of heat stress are expected as the region is likely to continue to be in a potentially record Heat Season. Heat stress may further ramp up if Saharan dust incursions increase dry spell frequency.



Visit <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/climate-outlooks/> to access the latest climate outlooks.

### CLIMATE-SMART ADVISORIES

**Be hurricane prepared!!!**

#### In the event of drought and heatwaves:

- ◆ Ensure regular weeding to reduce competition and further stress to crops
- ◆ Be mindful not to over-irrigate your crop to avoid water logging or runoff
- ◆ Avoid transplanting in prolonged dry conditions this may trigger transplant shock, yield reduction and in severe cases death.
- ◆ Avoid planting in extreme hot conditions, this may affect germination rate and percentage. However, if planting, take into consideration water resource availability.
- ◆ Ensure proper ventilation, shading and adequate water for your animals.
- ◆ Monitor poultry for signs of heat stress (e.g., spreading out of wings, panting etc) and in ruminants (e.g., panting, drooling, sweating)

#### In the event of flooding:

- ◆ Ensure that livestock are housed on high grounds (where possible); evacuate animals in low lying areas and pastures which are prone to flooding and erosion.
- ◆ Certain pest and diseases such as blossom end rot will increase during and after extreme wet conditions, implement appropriate disease and pest management practices.

**Maintain proper records** of inputs and the crop under cultivation and/or livestock being reared.

*Please also keep updated and take into consideration your local weather and climate advisories.*

#### Disclaimer

The information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the CARDI, and the CIMH make no warranties, either expressed or implied concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of said information. This bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 6 months in advance. It is recommended that stakeholders should use this information in combination with nearer term weather

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