

# 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 and tail end of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the Caribbean Wet Season and the Caribbean Heat Season, implying 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.**

**Though unpredictable conditions in the atmosphere can, at times, present barriers to extreme activity of these three types of seasons, they are unlikely to persist throughout the period.**

## JULY IN REVIEW

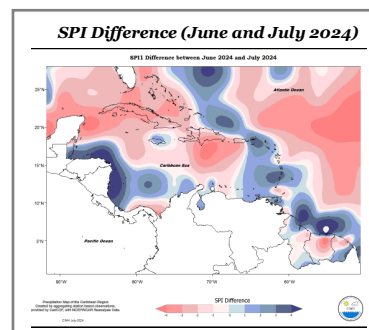
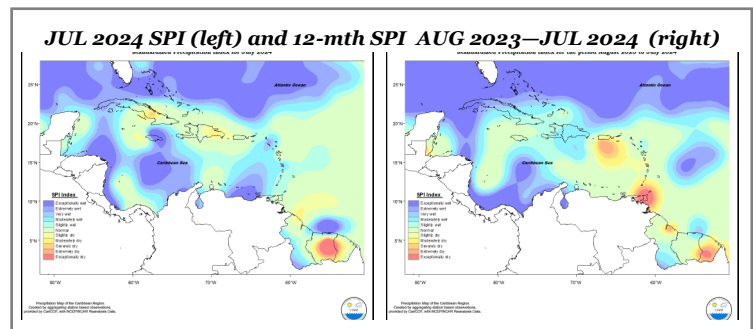
Predominantly normal to above normal conditions were experienced throughout the islands of the eastern Caribbean during the month of July. Trinidad, Barbados, Dominica, Guadeloupe, St Croix and St Thomas were normal to slightly wet; Tobago, Grenada and St Vincent slightly wet; Saint Lucia, Antigua, St Maarten slight to moderately wet; Martinique moderately wet and St Kitts very to extremely wet. In the Guianas, conditions ranged from exceptionally wet to exceptionally dry. Aruba was normal and Curacao predominantly normal to slightly wet.

Puerto Rico ranged from slightly dry in extreme western areas to mostly normal. The Dominican Republic was normal to moderately dry. Jamaica was normal to exceptionally wet from west to east. Grand Cayman was slightly wet to predominantly normal. Cuba ranged from severely dry in east central areas to extremely wet in western areas and to moderately wet in the southeast. Belize ranged from normal in the west to moderately wet in the south and to slightly 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 (August 2023 to July 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

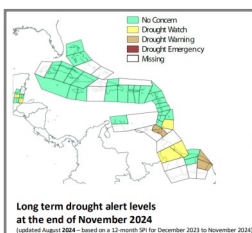
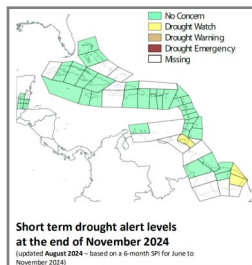
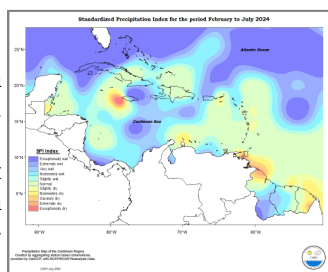
**Trinidad:** Local farmers can thrive in spite of climate change. Read more <https://newsday.co.tt>.

**Barbados:** Farmers lose big from severe weather. Read more <https://barbadostoday.bb>.

## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS

### DROUGHT

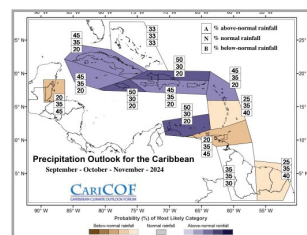
Severe (or worse) short-term drought has developed in western Jamaica and southwest Trinidad. Severe (or worse) long-term drought has developed in southwest Belize, French Guiana, northern Guyana, western Jamaica and eastern Suriname.



There is very little concern over short term drought that can impact small rivers, streams and ponds by the end of November, though portions of French Guiana 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 French Guiana, and Trinidad. northern Guyana, Tobago and Belize should monitor their water resources for long term drought.

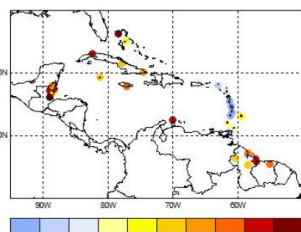
### RAINFALL, WET/DRY SPELLS, TEMPERATURE and HEATWAVE DAYS (SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2024)



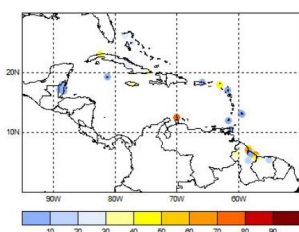
Rainfall totals from September through November are likely to be the usual or higher across the ABC Islands, the Greater Antilles and the Leeward Islands, but, possibly, the usual or less in Barbados, Belize, eastern parts of the Guianas, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Windward Islands.

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

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

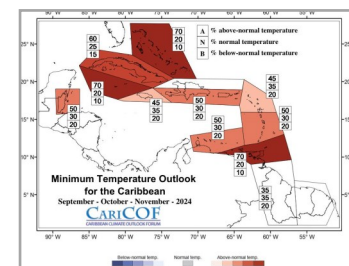
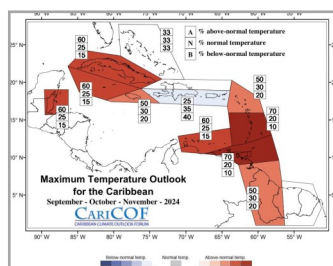


MAXIMUM number of 15-day dry spell in SON



The occurrence of at least three 7-day dry spells is favourable across the Guianas, the ABC Islands, Belize, Jamaica, Cuba and northwestern portion of The Bahamas.

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 and the region is likely to continue to be in a record Heat Season through October. Heat stress may further ramp up where dry spells are more frequent than usual.



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)
- ◆ Farmers should avoid foods that increase dehydration and take breaks in cool, shady areas to reduce body temperature.

#### 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 forecasts to guide operational decision making. The bulletin may be freely used by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be modified in content and then presented as original material.

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