



Expected rainfall for March is likely to be normal to below normal

March Outlook

Wind-speeds are forecast to range between 10 and 15 knots during the month of March.

During the driest month of the year for Barbados, no significant change is expected from the normal rainfall levels of 37.4mm over an average of eight rain days (rain day \geq 1 mm)

February Synopsis

The frequency of movement of a number of fast-moving frontal systems into the north-western Atlantic during February, resulted in the continued erosion of the western side of the Bermuda/Azores ridge. Thus, the high pressure system was centered nearer to the Azores for most of the month all the while maintaining its dominance across the eastern Caribbean; it pumped moderate to fresh east to east north-easterly trade-winds of 25 to 40 km/h across Barbados and the rest of the region.

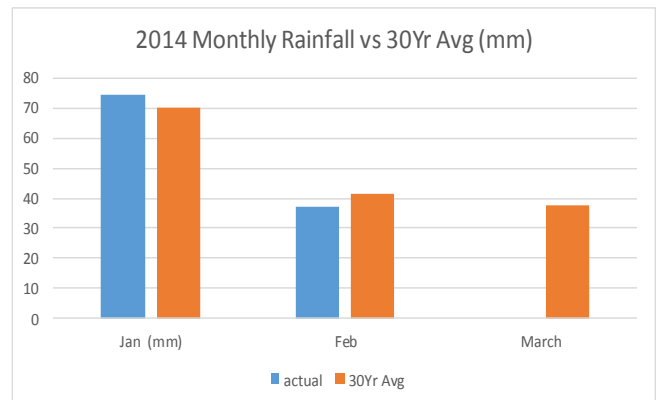
February Rainfall Report

Two dry spells which occurring during the month of February contributed to slightly below normal rainfall at the Grantley Adams Airport. The first was a four-day spell between the 11th and 14th; the second was a five-day spell which occurred between the 20th and the 24th. The February, 2014 rainfall total of 37.0mm was approximately 2mm less than that observed in February, 2013 and 4mm short of the long-term (1981-2010) average. Meanwhile, Golden Ridge in St. George recorded a rainfall total of 55.3mm for February over 15 rain days (rain day \geq 1mm of rainfall). This was five more than the number of rain days which occurred at the Airport

February 2014--- G.A.I.A

February Rainfall	Actual (2014)	Normal (1981-2010)
Rainfall Total (mm)	37.0	41.3
Rain Days (\geq 1.0mm)	10	8 days
Highest Feb Rainfall (1942-2013): 172.2 mm (1951)		
Lowest Feb Rainfall (1942-2013): 3.6 mm (2010)		

2014 G.A.I.A Rainfall (mm)



February Temperature Report

February also turned out to be a relatively cool month temperature-wise. There were two occurrences on which the daily maximum temperature equaled the long-term average of 29.2°C. In all other instances the daily maximum temperature was cooler the long-term average. The lowest minimum temperature observed at the Airport was 22.0°C on the 19th.

February Temperatures	Actual (2014)	Normal (1981-2010)
Avg, Air Temp (°C) (day)	26.7	26.0
Avg, Air Temp (°C) (night)	24.6	
Avg. Max Temp (°C)	28.6	29.2
Avg Min Temp (°C)	23.6	22.5
Highest Max Temp(°C)	29.2	31.2 (1998)
Lowest Min Temp (°C)	22.0	18.0 (1970)

March Normal 1981-2010 –G.A.I.A	
Parameter	
Avg Rainfall Total (mm)	37.4
Avg # Rain Days (>=1.0mm)	8
Avg, Air Temp (°C) (day)	26.2
Avg Wind-Speed (km/hr)	22
Avg. Max Temp (°C)	29.7
Avg Min Temp (°C)	22.8
Highest Max Temp(°C)	31.6 (2005)
Lowest Min Temp (°C)	17.4 (1986)

Recommendations for the Period

Water Capture

In our September 2013 Weather Outlook we said:

“With the high rainfall of August you should have had a good chance to look over your land space and see where are the best places to locate water catchment areas. Remember now may not be the time to start work but it sure is a good time to make some decisions of what and where to site such a facility.”

This is the right time to start that work.

Excavate the area you have decided is best. Compact the bottom and sides with marl before covering with pond liner.

Remember that you can not use vertical sides unless you are using some form of reinforced sides eg concrete sides. The slope should be 3:1 that is 3 times wider the vertical height and covered with the pond liner.

Source of Water

When you selected the area, you would or should have considered this. You have the option of surface runoff from slopes of the land, damming runoff channels (careful) or the runoff of your building roofs.

Runoff from building roofs is, by far, the more viable and easiest to manage option. This also offers you the benefit that the area around your buildings will never be wet, soggy and uncomfortable.

If you are trying to capture water from ground sources like gullies or other surface runoff, you have to be VERY careful. Should your structure break and damage is caused downstream you will be liable for the damages. Should this be your idea please, provide a means of diverting the

water to your catchment area and a means to close that diversion when the pond is full.

Some Useful Numbers

The number of “1 acre inch per week” is a useful guide for you irrigation. This is, of course, less for seeding or young seedlings and more for deep rooted mature plants, but it IS a guide. This means that it is the amount of water needed to cover one acre with one inch of water.

One acre inch is:

3630 cubic feet
102.8 cubic meters
27,154 US gallons

This gives an idea of the amount of water you need to irrigate your lands. Please remember that this is ONLY a GUIDE. Nothing guarantees that the outcome for these numbers.

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