

Grenada's Agro-met summary for April 2013

April began with what we can say climatologically, as a regular dry season month. The conditions of March persisted, with the Bermuda/Azores High close to the islands of the Lesser Antilles producing fresh to strong trades. Dry air aloft and strong subsidence resulted in the first twelve (12) days of April producing only a trace of rainfall.

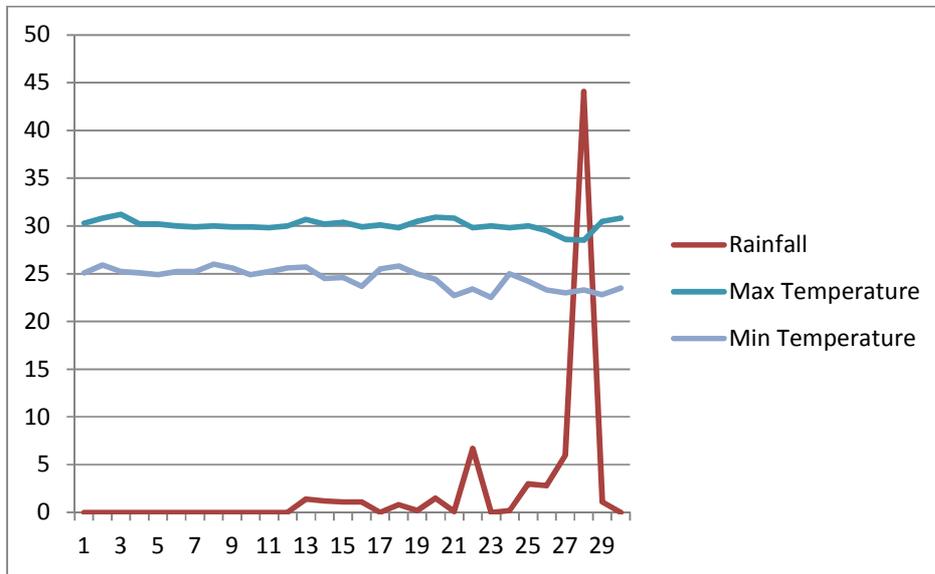
The "dry season" conditions were interrupted by the presence of the Sub-Tropical Jet. An anticyclone developed over northern Brazil which resulted in strong moisture advection into our region. This brought a fair amount of rainfall to the islands of the mid Windward's around the middle of the month. The advection changed conditions from almost a cloudless sky to cloudy for the second half of the month. A jet-max on the 28th produced 44.1mm of the month's total rainfall, 71.3mm, in less than six hours.

With the combination of the strong trades in the first half of the month and the jet in the later, the maximum temperature was kept very much in check, 30.1°C was the average with 31.2°C on the 3rd being the highest recorded. The minimum was held stable at 24.6°C with 22.5°C being the lowest on the 23rd.

Above normal surf affected our eastern and northern coastline from the 2nd to the 5th of the month as a strong frontal system made its way across the Atlantic. The meteorological office at the Maurice Bishop Int'l Airport was forced to issue marine advisories during these days as the seas became inhospitable to small craft and sea bathers.

The fishing industry made a comeback during April because of more favorable seas when compared with previous months. Fishermen were able to spend longer time at sea and also, there was an increase in the presence of the smaller fish that are normally used as bait.

Water melons, ground provisions and tomatoes continue to have good production numbers this month. Red plums are now in abundance. Mangoes are now in full load generally and some varieties are now being harvested.



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